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Draft Development Concept Plan
Environmental Assessment
Interpretive Prospectus

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Grandview ③

NEW RIVER GORGE

National River • West Virginia

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Draft
Development Concept Plan
Environmental Assessment
Interpretive Prospectus

October 1993

Grandview
NEW RIVER GORGE
National River • West Virginia

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service • Denver Service Center

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SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Grandview, a former state park, was added to the national park system as an area within New River Gorge National River in 1990. This *Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment / Interpretive Prospectus* considers five alternatives for NPS development and use of the Grandview site. Each alternative would conserve the cultural and natural resources of Grandview, seek to conserve and interpret the folklife of central Appalachia, and provide a means for economic growth in southern West Virginia.

Under all the alternatives, application of the sustainable design and visitor use management philosophies at Grandview prompted the creation of development zones. Development zones are defined as areas without significant cultural and or natural resources and less than 10% slope. All new development proposed for Grandview occurs within identified development zones.

All alternatives also consider Grandview as the location for a cultural heritage program. This program would provide opportunities for visitors to watch and participate in the demonstrations of traditional cultural activities, obtain information regarding traditional regional activities and events, and support regional research and conservation efforts. The cultural heritage program could be implemented with or without an accompanying building or group of buildings. Alternatives 3-5 consider facility development to support the heritage program.

The facilities for a cultural heritage center could range from one building to a multi-building facility, depending on the alternative selected. The purpose of the center would be to conserve and interpret traditional central Appalachian culture and its diverse art forms in an effort to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the regional culture. The center would also stimulate and encourage economic development in southern West Virginia.

Under all alternatives current NPS interpretive and visitor activities would continue.

Under alternative 1, the no-action alternative, existing trends such as road/trail stabilization and maintenance would continue. Existing NPS staff would also seek to implement some of the cultural heritage program identified by the American Folklife Study.

Alternative 2 proposes new visitor use and park operations facilities, including a larger visitor contact station, a new loop road and parking area near Turkey Spur, sewage treatment, maintenance, protection, ranger activities, and staff housing. Additional NPS staff would implement the cultural heritage program to a greater degree than under alternative 1.

Alternative 3 proposes new visitor use and park operations facility development, including a new loop road and parking area near Turkey Spur. A research facility, orientation building (with space for interpretive rangers), sales/demonstration building, community hall, and multipurpose and administrative buildings would be constructed. Folklife staff would be hired by the operator to develop the heritage program and operate the visitor use facilities. Park operations facilities would include sewage treatment, maintenance, protection, ranger activities, and staff housing.

Alternative 4 proposes all the visitor use and park operations facilities outlined in alternative 3 with the addition of a family-style restaurant, heritage foods, indoor theater, crafts pavilion, nature center, rustic cottages, and lodges. The nature center would be operated by the National Park Service, but the folklife staff would be hired by the operator to develop the heritage program and operate the visitor facilities.

Alternative 5 proposes the new visitor use and park operations facility development outlined in alternative 3 with the addition of the nature center and heritage foods facilities. Staffing would be the same as outlined in alternative 4.

VISION STATEMENT

The Grandview area of the New River Gorge National River is in the heart of Appalachia. A cultural heritage center at Grandview could contribute to the conservation and interpretation of central Appalachian culture through varied programming and development options and also contribute to the preservation of significant aspects of the nation's heritage. The culture of the region reflects a cross-section of American life from early settlement through the industrial era. The movement from a predominately rural agricultural setting to an industrial economy with activities such as coal mining, timbering, and railroading are reflected in the region's oral traditions, arts and crafts, music, and foodways. In addition to the occupational influences, programming developed by the center would interpret the influence of numerous ethnic groups, such as the African-Americans, Italians, Greeks, and Russians, on the regional culture. The center complex would provide a setting for researching and demonstrating life in the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and how the culture and traditions have evolved.

PROGRAM VS. CENTER

A distinction is being made in this document between a cultural heritage *program* and a cultural heritage *center*. The cultural heritage program suggested by the American Folklife Center would be implemented, to varying degrees, under any of the five alternatives described later in this document. This program could include concerts, exhibitions, workshops, theatrical productions, dance parties, community gatherings, classes, technical assistance workshops, tours, special events, and apprenticeships. Under alternatives 1 and 2 these program elements, which would be undertaken by NPS staff, could take place at Grandview (or possibly other regional locations depending on the need for facilities). Under alternatives 3, 4, and 5, however, there would be a cluster of buildings (slightly different in each of those three alternatives) at Grandview that would be used to implement the program at the Grandview site, resulting in an actual cultural heritage center. Management of the center has yet to be determined.

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PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This plan represents another step in the ongoing planning, management, and development of New River Gorge National River. The national river includes a portion of the New River and its narrow gorge as it traverses the Appalachian Mountains in southern West Virginia. The 50-mile, 62,000-acre national river corridor, which runs from the town of Hinton in the south to just north of the U.S. Highway 19 bridge near Fayetteville, was authorized on November 10, 1978, by Public Law 95-625 "for the purpose of conserving and interpreting outstanding natural, scenic and historic values and objects in and around the New River Gorge and preserving as a free-flowing stream an important segment of the New River in West Virginia for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (see the Vicinity map).

Grandview, a former state park, was added to the national park system as an area within the New River Gorge National River in 1990. This document includes five alternatives for NPS development, protection, and interpretation of the Grandview site, which is in the Middle Gorge unit. (See the "Affected Environment" section for a description of the Middle Gorge unit.)

All alternatives recommend a cultural heritage program at Grandview. This program would provide opportunities for visitors to watch and participate in the demonstrations of traditional cultural activities, obtain information regarding traditional regional activities and events, and support regional research efforts. The New River corridor is culturally part of the central Appalachian region. The diverse culture that surrounds this area incorporates multiple traditions and images found in the larger Appalachian region within which it lies. Thus, development of a cultural heritage program at the park appears to be appropriate; this concept has been developed with the assistance of representatives from agencies and organizations concerned with cultural conservation and interpretation.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to evaluate alternative management strategies for Grandview. Grandview was transferred to the national park system in 1990 and was therefore not part of New River Gorge National River when the 1982 *General Management Plan* was prepared. This document will serve as an amendment to the general management plan on matters related to the Grandview area.

The Park Service is also interested in providing for interpretation of the region's cultural heritage at Grandview. Therefore, all alternatives address methods for developing a cultural heritage program. Alternatives 3-5 include facilities to support the cultural heritage program.

Following public and agency review and comment on this draft document, a final development concept plan/interpretive prospectus will be prepared. That document will direct resource conservation, visitor use, interpretation, and facility development at the

Grandview site for the next 10 to 15 years. Implementation of the final plan will require congressional appropriations.

PLANNING OBJECTIVES AND CONCERNS

Since the establishment of New River Gorge National River, several planning documents have been prepared that set the stage for more detailed planning and established the philosophical framework for site-specific decision making. Those documents also include statements of park purpose, significance, and management objectives. The primary objectives and concerns to be addressed by this plan are summarized below.

Planning Objectives

Planning objectives for the national river are as follows:

Increase visitor understanding and appreciation of central Appalachian mountain culture.

Contribute to the continuance of traditional central Appalachian culture and its diverse art forms.

Apply the principals of sustainable design and visitor use management.

Provide economic stimulation to southern West Virginia.

Planning Concerns

Concerns that were considered during the planning process include the following:

Provide for visitor access and circulation.

Allow changes while minimizing the impact on the cultural and natural environment.

Encourage visitors to use interpretive and recreational sites both within and outside the national river boundary.

Provide opportunities for economic growth.

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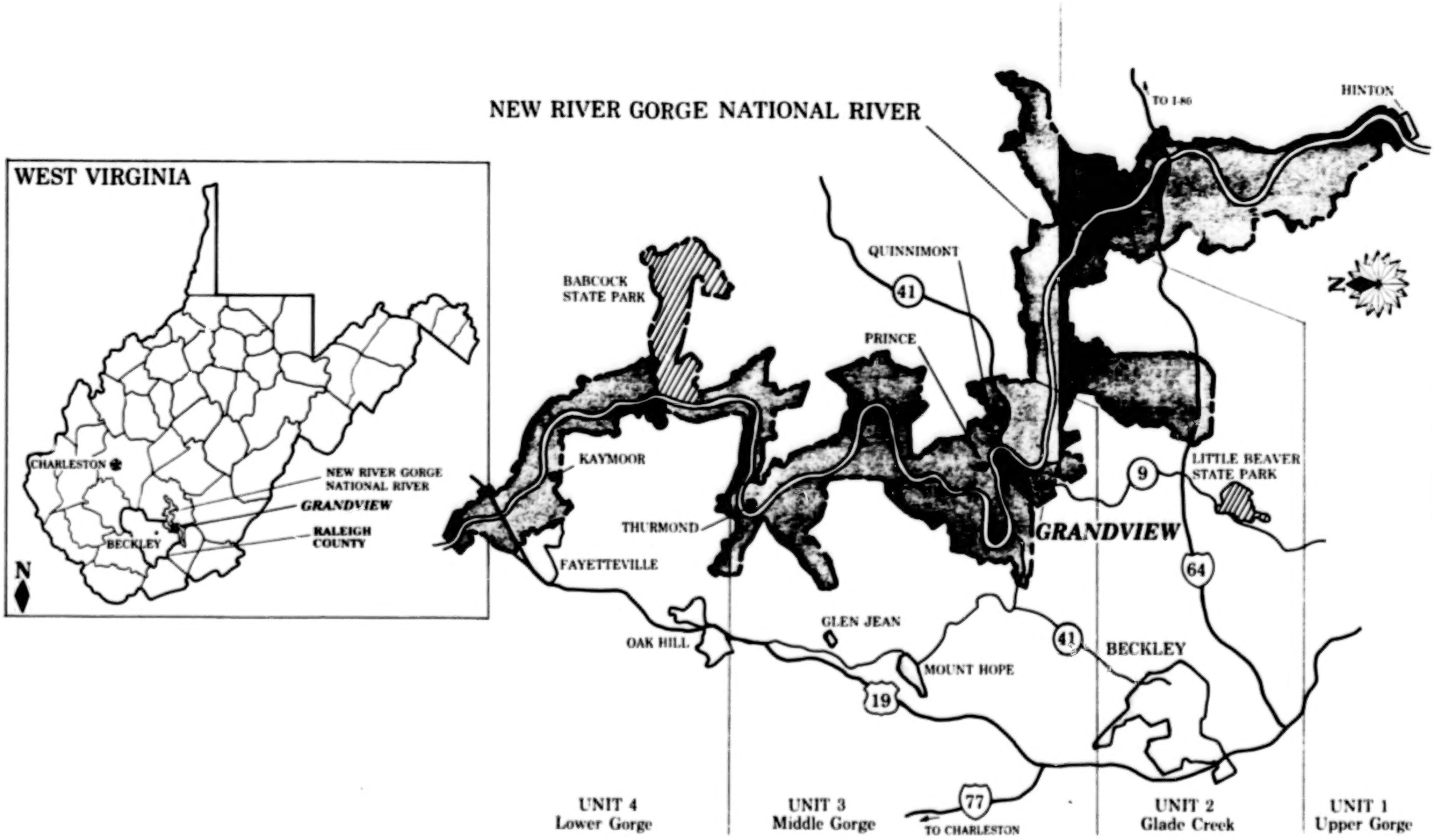

VICINITY
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RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

Efforts Within National River

Several recent NPS development concept plans have addressed other major sites in the Middle Gorge Unit: Stone Cliff (1989), Glade Creek (1990), and Thurmond (1992). Middle Gorge (1993) addresses all remaining sites within this planning unit.

Efforts External to National River

The following list is an example of the range of agencies, organizations, and institutions that are currently involved in activities that in some way promote cultural interpretation, presentation, or education within southern West Virginia. All could be seen as potential partners in activities at the Grandview center, either as cosponsors of projects, as potential users of the center for their own programs, or as possible areas for off-site programming sponsored by the Grandview center. A more complete listing can be found in appendix C.

Eco Theater, Lewisburg, WV

Eco Theater is a nonprofit organization that encourages the development and performance of original theater created by local people.

The Appalachian Arts and Crafts Festival, Beckley, WV

This three-day event is hosted each August by the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce at the Raleigh County Armory-Civic Center. Approximately 150 artisans and craftsmen display and sell their works.

The Cultural Center, Charleston, WV

Located within the state capitol complex, the cultural center houses the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Library Commission. The Division of Culture and History publishes the quarterly folklife magazine *Goldenseal*, programs events and exhibits through the West Virginia State Museum, and operates Camp Washington-Carver at Clifftop and West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling. The arts and humanities section of the division works with artists, craftspeople, art institutions, and citizens to develop ongoing projects that support and promote the arts.

Appalachian South Folklife Center, Pipestem, WV

The center sponsors educational programs for youth in folk culture and traditional folk arts.

Exhibition Coal Mine, Beckley, WV

Tours of the coal mine and the mining museum are available.

Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia, Beckley, WV

Programs on folk culture are presented to children.

West Virginia Parkways Economic Development and Tourism Authority, Beckley, WV

The Tourism Authority is in the process of incorporating small craft gift shops in some of their highway pull-off service areas. At the Beckley service area, an arts and crafts center is also in the planning stages. The center will focus primarily on showcasing and the retail sale of West Virginia arts, crafts, and products. Space is also being considered for exhibitions, craft demonstrations, and performances.

Partnerships and Cooperative Agreements

Development of cooperative agreements and partnerships with various agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals in southern West Virginia is a key element to the success of the Grandview cultural heritage center. Arrangements might include NPS assistance with training programs, joint or shared historical research, special programs and seminars, exhibit planning and development, referrals and site promotions, and tours. In return, the park and visitors would benefit by

gaining additional knowledge of and access to other cultural activities

expanding the possibilities for the loan of objects for display

receiving technical assistance on specialized topics

expanded availability of nonpark resources for special programs and events

expanded networking with various organizations and resources

encouraging greater visitation to southern West Virginia

Possible partnerships could include

coordination with school systems and universities for volunteers throughout the park and for off-site programs and classroom studies related to cultural heritage

cooperation with local historic groups to assist in preservation, conservation, and interpretation

coordination with private groups and individuals for guided tours, technical assistance, and advice on preservation, conservation, and interpretation

- cooperation with county and city planning boards

- work with special interest groups to develop a better understanding of central Appalachian culture

Resources and activities outside the park could be identified in park brochures and described in various publications done by the cultural heritage center. The cultural heritage center would seek cooperative agreements with individuals, government agencies, and organizations to conserve and promote significant cultural activities and resources.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Middle Gorge unit of New River Gorge National River is steep-sided and cloaked in secondary growth of mixed hardwoods that have returned after the intensive logging of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The New River itself is calmer here than in the Lower Gorge unit, offering white-water rafting for less experienced rafters, kayakers, and canoeists, as well as quiet stretches favored by boat-based anglers. Traditionally, local and regional visitors have camped and fished along the banks.

The human history of the New River Gorge was dominated in the 19th and early 20th centuries by the production and shipment of "smokeless" coal, a critical product fueling the industrial development along much of the eastern seaboard. Depletion of local coal seams coincided with the development of alternative coal sources and fuels. As a result, little modern development has taken place in the Middle Gorge unit of the park. The unit continues to exhibit the architectural style and landscape characteristics of the historic mining and transportation era.

The gorge in this unit is accessible via the Shoreline or Royal Road. This all-weather, graded road parallels the CSX Railroad along the river's eastern bank. There is also a paved state road that crosses the river and provides easy access to several small communities. The only public access to Grandview is via State Highway Route 9 (Route 9) from Interstate 64. The character of the unit remains rural and peaceful, disturbed only by the passage of heavily laden coal trains, an occasional passenger train, and more visitors seeking to enjoy the secluded character of one of the nation's oldest rivers.

Grandview, like other areas throughout West Virginia, is recuperating. Logging once cleared most of the site, coke ovens burned below it, and strip mining occurred around it. Although drier than the gorge environment, Grandview has many pockets of moist and wet areas dispersed throughout undeveloped forests, forested parks, and rolling grass areas. It continues to feel much like a secluded natural landscape, even though a quarter of a million visitors enjoy the site every year.

Grandview is as much a contemplative space as it is a bustling center of activity. The panoramic view at the main overlook and the numerous activity and picnic areas buffered and screened by thick stands of trees, the dense middle canopy, and the understory thickets provide a setting for a wide range of activities. These distinct observer/participant activities, such as family reunions, ball games, nature walks, and picnicking, coexist in a unique and subtle combination of good design, natural diversity, and topography.

VISITOR USE AND RECREATION

With the spectacular view of the New River, winding over 1,000 feet below the ridge, Grandview has long been a favorite destination for regional residents. Since its days as a state park, family reunions have been a major activity at Grandview. Picnic shelters are booked months in advance for summer use. These large gatherings also make use of the children's play areas, recreational fields, and the numerous hiking trails. Coal companies, other businesses, and groups also sponsor picnics and gatherings at Grandview. Theatre West Virginia performs six nights a week June through September at Cliffside amphitheater.

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

The most concentrated development at Grandview is immediately inside the park entrance. Just west of the park's entrance, the park operations center has both a visual and audible effect on the surrounding environment. This area includes the former superintendent's residence built in 1961 (a single-story ranch house); a wood frame building that accommodates a garage also built in 1961; workbay, shopspace, storage, restrooms, and office space built in 1970; and a modular unit used for storage/office space. There is parking for approximately 55 vehicles. Just east of the main entry is a modular housing unit (see Existing Development map).

The recreational area contains children's play areas, recreational fields, picnic tables, restroom facilities, one picnic shelter (built in 1989 with private funds), and serves as a starting point for numerous hiking trails.

Built in 1960, Cliffside amphitheater has 1,245 fixed seats, a small entry building, and stage side walls. Theater workshops and storage spaces are behind the stage and are accessed by a short service road. Close to the amphitheater is a modular ranger station. Constructed in the early 1960s, the southern parking area is screened from the theater and the recreational areas with hundreds of rhododendron.

There are three primary picnic areas in the park, each accessed by short roads leading to parking areas. Picnic area 1, with one shelter, numerous tables, grills, play equipment, public restrooms, a stone drinking fountain, and parking for 40 vehicles, was designed in 1939 and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps program during the early 1940s. Picnic areas 2 and 3 were constructed during the early 1960s using conventional wood-frame modular units and trailers. Picnic area 2 has a shelter, tables, grills, play equipment, public restrooms, and parking for 32 vehicles. Picnic area 3 has two shelters, numerous tables, grills, and parking for 53 cars. All areas are heavily used by visitors.

The main overlook, the Turkey Spur overlook, and the cleared areas along the canyon rim provide a variety of views of the New River and the communities of Prince and Quinnimont. The Castle Rock and Canyon Rim trails connect the main overlook and the Turkey Spur overlook. The Tunnel trail leads to several natural caves in the cliffs near the main overlook. Other short trails offer hiking opportunities near the picnic areas.

Turkey Spur overlook has approximately 10 spaces for vehicular parking. Wooden stairs and boardwalks provide access to the overlook.

All potable water is currently obtained from the Raleigh County Public Service District. The water main enters Grandview along Route 9. There are several septic systems that service Grandview.

Route 9, a two-lane, curvilinear road that is paved with asphalt and concrete averages 18 feet wide and is the only public entrance into Grandview. Underground water/moisture has resulted in rutting, local settlement, and cracking of the foundation. A recent overlay has covered these problems temporarily, but the potential/probable increase in traffic into Grandview, particularly heavy axle loadings of busses and motor-home-type vehicles, would quickly expose these problems.

LANDOWNERSHIP AND LAND USE

Guidance for future land use along the Route 9 is found within the Raleigh County, West Virginia, planning and zoning ordinance, as amended February 1, 1966. The ordinance covers both residential and commercial development.

Two critical viewsheds immediately south of the park boundary are comprised of privately owned property. On the east side of Route 9, the gently rolling terrain serves both as a pasture and a backdrop to a group of farm structures. Clearly visible from the playing fields, a change in the use of this property would affect the park setting and character. In contrast, the parcel of land west of Route 9 is steeper. The boundary between this parcel of land and the park is currently covered with dense vegetation. Private or commercial development of this land would also have an impact on the setting and character of Grandview.

Within the park, primary viewsheds are predominately on the rim side of Grandview. The main overlook, Turkey Spur overlook, and other sites along the Canyon Rim trail have viewsheds over the New River. While it is unlikely that the park would seek to develop along this section of the river, development activities beyond the park boundary could have indirect impacts on the river, affecting the internal viewshed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prehistory

Four major prehistoric periods have been identified for the general patterns of cultural development for the eastern United States. Paleo-Indian (approx. 12,000 to ca. 8000 B.C.), Archaic (ca. 8000 B.C.- ca. 1000 B.C.), Woodland (ca. 1000 B.C. - A.D. 900), and Late Prehistoric (ca. A.D. 900 -1650). Also identified are the Protohistoric (A.D. 1650-1770) and Historic periods (1770 - present) during which the aboriginal cultures were completely replaced by European and African occupation.

Paleo Indian. Radiocarbon dating places man of circa 17,000 B.C. at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter in southern Pennsylvania. By 10,000 B.C. tool assemblage of the Paleo Indian had distinctive fluted and lanceolate projectile points that are considered diagnostic artifacts. By crossing date points found in West Virginia, man's earliest occupation occurred in this state approximately 12,000 years ago. It is likely, however, that the favorable environment of the Wisconsin glacial period (16,000 B.C.) encouraged groups to use the area even earlier.

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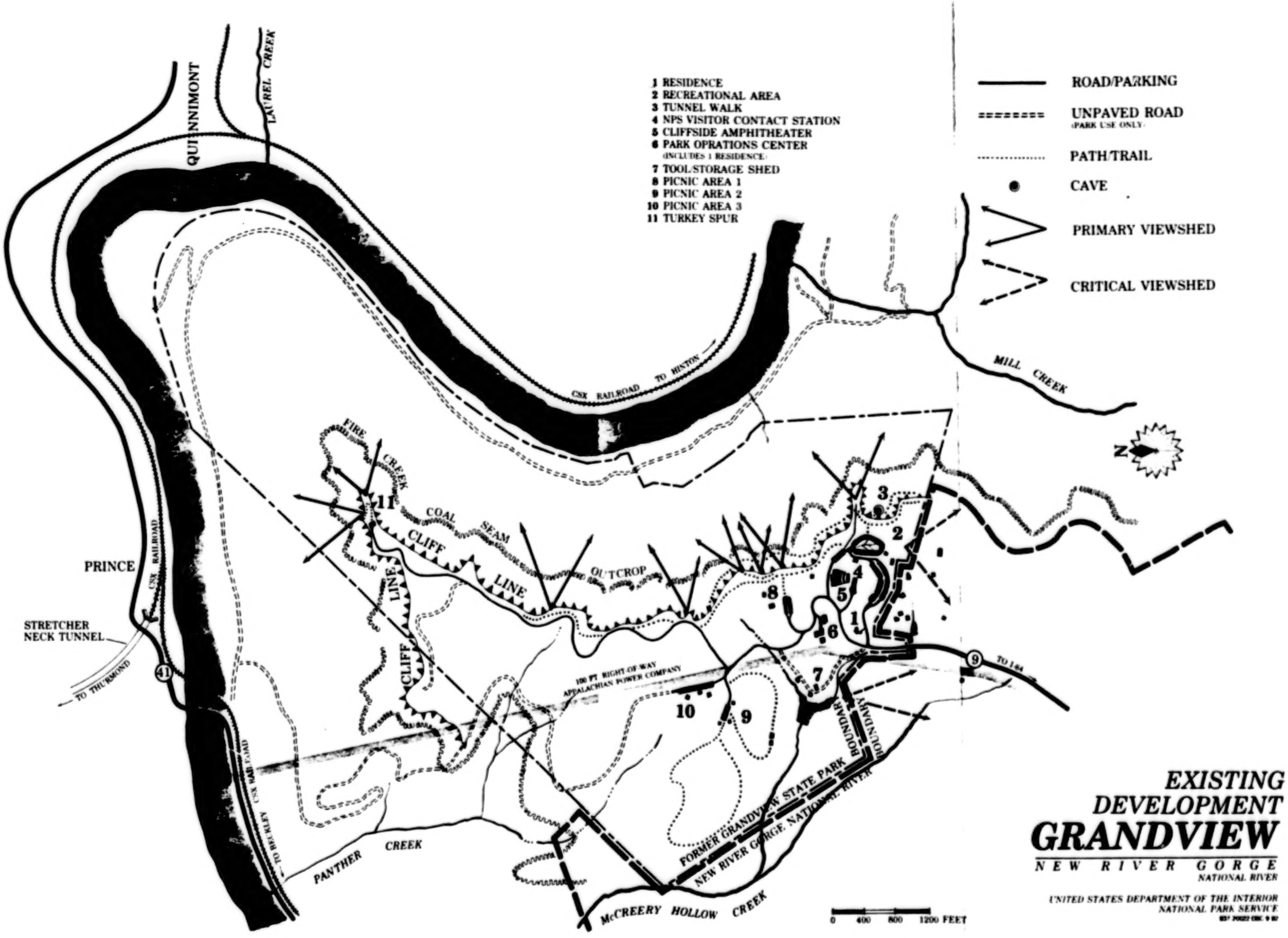

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT
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Archaic Period. The subsistence strategy of this period placed a great emphasis on exploiting a wide variety of local plant and animals. The first evidence of weaving technology appears during this period, and hot rock cooking was commonly used to prepare food by the end of the period. The number of burial grounds indicates that increased populations were less mobile.

Woodland. The introduction and manufacturing of pottery occur during the Woodland period. More elaborate mortuary rituals include burial mounds, and there is also more emphasis on the cultivation of domesticated plants.

Late Prehistoric. Development of a horticultural complex including maize, squash, and beans with a variety of native plants and animals marks this period. Settlements of the indigenous cultures become more permanent and show evidence of planning. Such sites are often large, permanent villages with rectangular houses on a central plaza or courtyard on or near the floodplains. During the late fall and early winter a majority of the population disperses into smaller family bands to establish winter hunting camps. These more permanent settlements are also accompanied by a specialization of labor, development of social organization, and population growth.

Protohistoric Period. Little is known about indigenous inhabitants of the area who encountered the Europeans. The earliest accounts of those inhabitants comes from Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam's journey into New River in 1671. During an expedition, sponsored by Col. Abraham Wood to cultivate Indian trade, a reference is made in Fallam's journal to "bare meadows and old fields." The pair was informed by their Appomattox Indian guide that the fields were worked by the Mohetan (Moneton) or "Salt Maker" Indians. Batts and Fallam did not actually see any Mohetan towns and the guides refused to go farther downriver in fear of the "Salt Maker" Indians who camped in the vicinity of the Mercer Salt Works in Summers County. Additional information indicates that the "Salt Makers" may have been Shawnees. Their presence in southern West Virginia came as a result of war between them and the Iroquois from 1662 to 1672. During that time many of the Shawnee villages along the Ohio River, including the West Virginia tributaries, were moved or abandoned. There is currently insufficient historical evidence to determine the exact tribal/linguistic identity of the Mohetan group. Some believe the Mohetan were a Shawnee group of Algonkian linguistic stock. Others believe the Shawnee were of Siouan linguistic stock. There is ample archeological evidence that Native Americans lived in West Virginia year-round.

History

Waterways and numerous overland trails cross southern West Virginia. By the time Anglos settled in the area, there were established networks of footpaths that connected salt licks and springs.

During the late prehistoric period (A.D. 1000 - A.D. 1700) the eastern migration of buffalo created an extensive system of trails. Travelers in the early 19th century could follow these trails from the Big Lick near what is now Roanoke, Virginia, to the Grand Prairie of Illinois.

The best known of the Indian trails was the network of paths known as the "Great Indian Warpath," which ran from settlements in Alabama and Georgia to Shawnee villages along the Ohio River. The main trail that linked the Ohio valley and the southern Piedmont was the Ohio branch. This branch followed the New and Kanawha rivers and was used by the Iroquois from New York in their war parties against the Catawbas and other southern tribes. The Shawnee also used the path raiding Euro-American settlements of West Virginia during the 18th century. The trail followed rivers except for the 30 miles along the New River in Summers, Raleigh, and Fayette counties. The gorge was too narrow, deep, and difficult to traverse in these counties. To avoid the gorge the path from the Ohio to Kanawha forked, one bypassed the gorge on the east side and the other on the west.

Within the vicinity of The New River Gorge National River is a network of trails referred to in early historical accounts as the Seneca, Midland, Paint Creek, Pocahontas, Guyandotte, and Big Sandy-Tug Fork trails. Before the coming of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in the 1870s the trails were the main arteries that allowed passage through the area.

The first Europeans to come to this area were probably hunters and backwoodsmen in search of game. Initial impulse for systematic exploration and settlement of interior lands stemmed from profitable trade with Indians. During the 17th century commercial trade with the various Indian tribes was of dominant concern in the colonies, resulting in stiff competition. In 1671 Colonel Woods sent Thomas Batts and Robert Fallows (Fallam) to establish trading relationships with the native inhabitants. Batts and Fallows are credited as the first Europeans to cross the Appalachians and discover the New River. Their discovery added validity to England's claim to the Ohio Valley and much of the Allegheny region. Later explorers traveling on Indian trails also penetrated the New River.

Roads and related developments were slow in coming to this area. Completion of the state road in 1790 encouraged increased settlement around the New River. Early settlers, mostly of English, German, and Scotch-Irish descent, moved in from Virginia and Pennsylvania. Early valley-floor settlements gradually filled, forcing newcomers to move up the hollows and later onto the ridges and plateau areas.

Grandview was settled in 1855 by Joseph Carper. Homesteading along the rim of the New River Gorge, Carper named this area "Grand View" for the view it afforded. A community slowly grew around the Carper homestead and retained the name Grandview. Until 1900 the area in and around Grandview was the principal business section of Raleigh County.

The coming of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in the 1870s opened the entire gorge to the coal and timber industries. The railroads grew rapidly in the decades before 1900. Narrow-gauge lines were constructed to move the coal to the mainline shipping points.

Both coal mining and timbering activities occurred at Grandview. The Royal Mining Company opened the first coal mine in Raleigh County at Grandview in 1891. The coal was transported across the New River to Prince in giant buckets attached to cables. In the early 1900s, J.R. Beatty operated the largest sawmill in southern West Virginia at Grandview. To transport the lumber to market, Beatty built and operated the first railroad in the county. With the depletion of the coal seams and the cutting of available timber, industrial activity slowly faded from the Grandview area.

In 1939 the state of West Virginia purchased 52 acres of land at Grandview from the Admiralty Coal Corporation and the Royal Mining Company to develop a day use park. The CCC assisted in the building of access roads, shelters, and picnic tables at picnic area 1. Stone from Prince Ridge in Grandview was used by Tom Haney and Van Carper to pave the walkway to the main overlook.

The second building phase occurred in 1960 with construction of Cliffside amphitheater and the former superintendent's residence. The amphitheater was designed by Henry T. Elden and built by the Vipperman Construction Company. The third building phase, between 1961 and 1964, put additional restrooms, the playground, recreation area, lights in the caves, and additional walkways on the site.

The state purchased an additional 836 acres from the Loop Creek Company in 1949. More land was acquired from private individuals between 1973 and 1975.

After more than 50 years as one of the most popular day use parks in the state system, Grandview was transferred to the National Park Service, becoming part of the New River Gorge National River in 1990. (Sources for additional information on the history of the New River Gorge are listed in the Bibliography at the end of the document.)

Existing Cultural Resources

West Virginia and the National Park Service collaborated in designing the recreational layout for Grandview State Park in 1940. Those elements — the children's play area, playgrounds, and group picnicking areas — have remained distinct components of the Grandview landscape (see Historical and Cultural Elements map).

Grandview currently has two features that may be eligible for listing on the park's List of Classified Structures. These Depression era features — the shelter at picnic area 1 and the benches along the Canyon Rim — may also be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A cultural landscape assessment is underway to ascertain whether or not Grandview is eligible under national register criteria for listing as a designed historic landscape. If the site is determined eligible for listing as a designed historic landscape, a national register nomination form will be prepared.

Opening in 1891, the Royal Mining Company operated the first coal mine in Raleigh County, under what is today Grandview, into the 20th century. Evidence of that activity can be found near Turkey Spur overlook in the remaining concrete tipple abutments. A large furnace was built near the main overlook for ventilating these mines.

In the early 20th century, J.R. Beatty operated the largest sawmill in southern West Virginia at Grandview. Beatty erected the world's first overhead log skidder near the main overlook. This skidder could move logs up to 12 inches in diameter and 125 feet long from the top of the mountain to the railroad on the canyon floor below.

Cliffside amphitheater, with seating originally for 1,376 people, was constructed in 1961; since that time it has been home to the outdoor performances of Theatre West Virginia.

An archeological testing program of proposed development zones was completed in July 1992 under the direction of the Eastern Applied Archeology Center. Approximately 2,500 shovel tests were excavated in areas with up to a 5% slope, and a pedestrian survey on land with more than a 5% slope was conducted. Five prehistoric and two historic sites have been identified as needing further investigation if development is planned at or near them. Preliminary indications show that identified sites are not likely to be highly significant; however, their true potential for contributions to local or regional prehistory and history should be investigated further.

Cultural Diversity

The cultural diversity of southern West Virginia has been shaped primarily by the environment and the types of settlers. Approximately 5/6 of West Virginia falls within the Allegheny Plateau, which is part of the Appalachian Highlands. Mountains and the difficulty associated with river traffic and access discouraged communication with areas outside. Local relief ranges between 1,000 and 3,500 feet and slopes of 40 to 50% are common. One of the most mountainous areas in West Virginia, Raleigh County had little to offer other than its large coal deposits and vast stands of virgin timber.

Few historical references or documentation can be found of a continuing Native American influence in this area at the time of Anglo-European settlement. Archeological evidence clearly indicates, however, that there was a long-term habitation of the area by various Indian peoples before Anglo settlement. Just as the first inhabitants of the area were encouraged to disperse because of convenient water transportation and available land, early Anglo-European settlement of West Virginia moved throughout the Ohio, Monongahela, Kanawha, Little Kanawha, Big Sandy, Potomac, Coal, and the Guyandotte river valleys. The first European settlers were primarily Dutch, Pennsylvania Dutch, English, French Huguenots, and Scotch-Irish. Oriented to rural farming, the economy was subsistence based. The discovery of coal by John Salley and John Howard along the Coal River in 1742 radically changed the economic base of the region.

Before West Virginia became a state, small bituminous coal mines were found randomly along navigable rivers worked primarily by isolated individuals. Expansion of railroads in the 1880s contributed to the economic growth and social transformation of the region. Large numbers of African-Americans, Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Austrians, Polish, and Russians flocked into the region. The 1880s also saw rise of the "company town."

Cultural ties and allegiances within ethnic groups were broken and replaced by the structure of coal company towns. Development of a social and political hierarchy based on color ethnicity was stymied. By standardizing living and working conditions, the towns effectively prohibited socioeconomic competition and mobility. A capitalistic structure was established along distinct class lines, based primarily on occupation rather than ethnicity or race. The cultural heritage program at Grandview would seek to conserve and interpret the effects of the occupational and ethnic diversity on the region's oral traditions, arts and crafts, music, and foodways.

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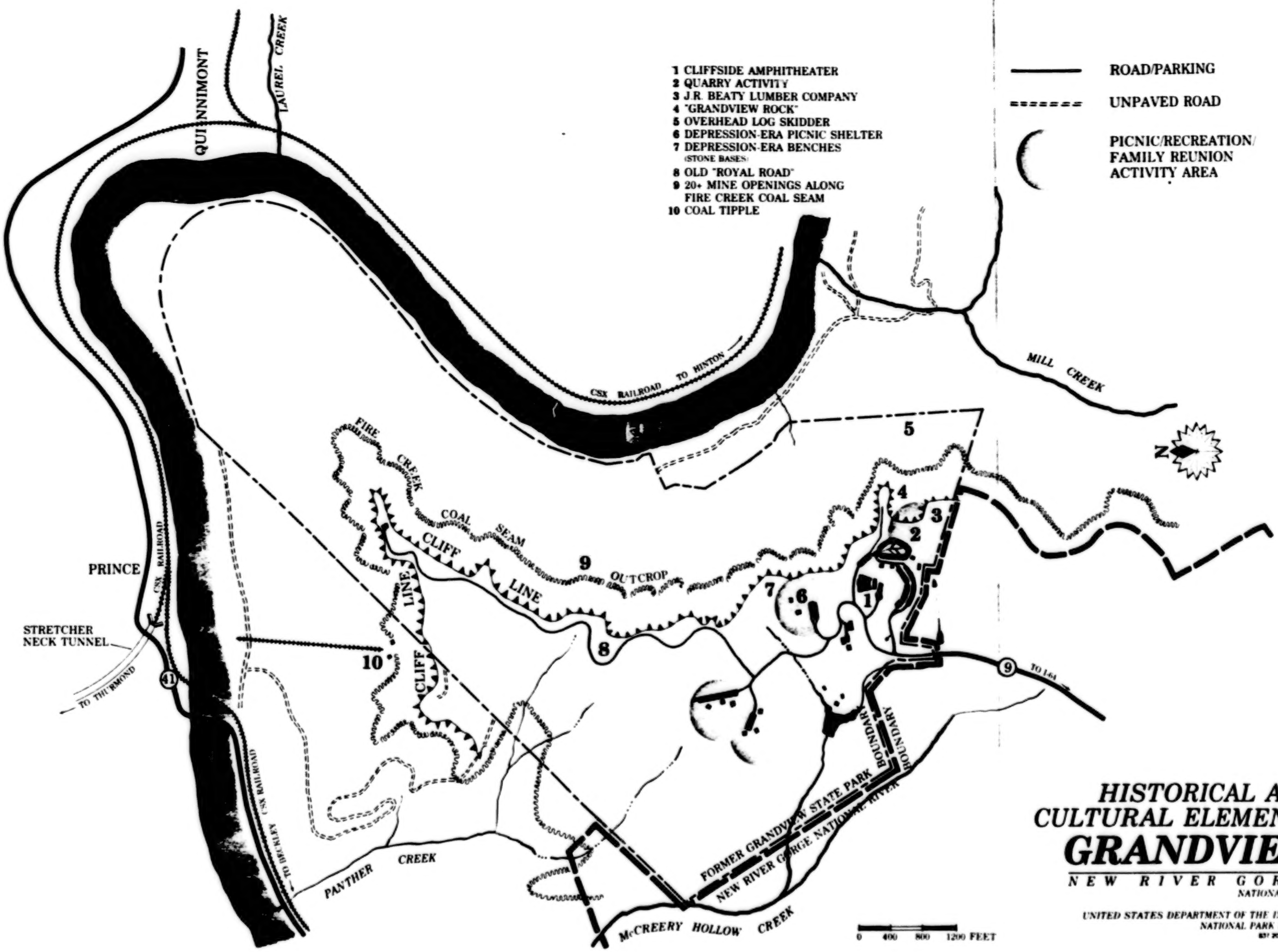

1 CLIFFSIDE AMPHITHEATER
2 QUARRY ACTIVITY
3 J.R. BEATY LUMBER COMPANY
4 "GRANDVIEW ROCK"
5 OVERHEAD LOG SKIDDER
6 DEPRESSION-ERA PICNIC SHELTER
7 DEPRESSION-ERA BENCHES (STONE BASES)
8 OLD "ROYAL ROAD"
9 20+ MINE OPENINGS ALONG FIRE CREEK COAL SEAM
10 COAL TIPPLE

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS
GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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Theatre West Virginia

Theatre West Virginia has performed at Cliffside Amphitheater since 1961. Plays such as *Honey in the Rock* and *The Hatfields and McCoys* have long been local and regional favorites. When Grandview was transferred from the state of West Virginia to the Park Service in 1990, the Park Service negotiated a new 10-year lease agreement with Theatre West Virginia.

Seasonal performances by Theatre West Virginia at Cliffside Amphitheater normally run six days a week, from mid June through Labor Day. Remodeling after the 1991 season left 1,245 seats available for the 1992 season (or 82,170 seats for the season). Until the 1992 season, Cliffside had 1,318 seats available for each performance (or 86,988 seats per season). During the 1993 season, the group had 61 performances and sold approximately 16,751 tickets. Performances Tuesday through Friday averaged 20.8 percent of total occupany. Weekend occupancy ranged from 10.8 to 71.3 percent (an average of 24.3), for an average 20.4 occupancy rate.

TABLE 1: 1989-1992 VISITOR NUMBERS FOR
THEATRE WEST VIRGINIA PERFORMANCES

Month	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
June	4,121	4,743	4,388	3,250	2,709
July	7,227	8,960	10,227	11,019	7,645
August	11,059	13,547	15,768	12,012	6,397
Totals	22,407	27,250	30,383	26,281	16,751

Throughout the planning process, discussions between the National Park Service and Theatre West Virginia have focused on changes that may occur as a result of this development concept plan. All of the proposed alternatives assume a continued presence by Theater West Virginia at Cliffside Amphitheater. Theatre West Virginia has expressed great interest in expanding the range and frequency of their performances not only at cliffside but throughout Grandview in the event a cultural heritage program and/or center are developed. While not specifically referenced, none of the proposed alternatives preclude the possibility of NPS or cultural heritage center use of the facilities at Cliffside. Such a cooperative use of the facilities would need to be discussed between the Park Service and Theatre West Virginia under the terms of the existing lease agreement.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Overview

Although considered a dry, ridgetop habitat in the national river, the 878-acre Grandview area contains diverse natural resources and small microhabitat areas. As a designed historic landscape, the site has ornamental species and landscaped lawn" areas that are heavily used by the visiting public. Along the Canyon Rim and Castle Rock trails, large sandstone cliffs and large mixed hardwood trees provide moist, shady areas that include ferns and delicate herbaceous vegetation. This vegetation also serves as potential nesting and roosting habitat for raptors. There have been sightings of raptors, but they are not permanently nesting at the site. A few hundred feet higher, the drier forests on the site include large stands of evergreen trees, rhododendron thickets, and laurel thickets covered by larger stands of mixed hardwoods and pines (see Natural Resources map).

The site contains small headwater tributaries for the New River. Numerous bird species, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and deer are frequently seen at Grandview. Occasional larger mammals such as bears, bobcats, fox, and coyote, can also be found on and near the site. Sensitive areas onsite include steep slopes, the canyon rim area and cliffs, all drainages and tributaries, the pond/wetland area, and scenic overlook sites. Soils have moderate to high erosion potential and also have a shallow depth to bedrock. This can restrict development in some locations, especially on slopes.

Climate

The Grandview area has a seasonal, humid, continental climate that includes sharp day-to-day and seasonal temperature contrasts. The warm season is predominately May to September, with average high temperatures in the 70s and 80s during the day and in the 40s and 50s in the evenings. Because Grandview is in a moderately high elevation band (2,200-2,400 feet), evening temperatures in the summer are often 5 degrees cooler than lower elevation sites. Winter months can bring severe storms, precipitation with high winds, and occasional ice storms. An ice storm in 1991 caused severe damage to vegetation throughout the Grandview area.

Average annual precipitation in the area ranges between 45-50 inches, with 30 inches of snowfall annually. The wettest months are primarily between March and July. Frequent summer thundershowers average 4-5 inches of precipitation monthly. Valley fogs, from warm moist air rising from the river, are common in summer and fall.

Soils and Geology

Grandview has been mapped by the Soil Conservation Service as having predominately Dekalb soils, which are sandy, loamy soils that are moderately deep. The major engineering limitation in many of these soils is an average depth to the sandstone bedrock of 1.5 to 3.5 feet. Erosion potential is rated as moderate to severe for disturbed soils. Park staff have indicated that improvement of the large parking lots caused severe siltation of Grandview pond. Grandview's soils are well drained; however, some areas have a high groundwater table, and some seeps have been identified in the potential development zones. No prime or unique farmland soils are on the site.

The site is comprised of sedimentary sandstone formations that were deposited during the Mississippian and Pennsylvanian periods. Rising 1,400 feet above the deepest part of New River Gorge, the large sandstone cliffs bordering the northeastern portion of Grandview are of the Raleigh formation, deposited primarily during the Pennsylvanian period. The cliffs below the rim of the site are more than 100 feet thick, forming a massive formation in some areas. A narrow band of the Beckley coal seam outcrops at the base of the cliff, and fossils are visible at many points along the Canyon Rim and Castle Rock trails. Large weathered rectangular blocks of sandstone have slipped and moved over the centuries to

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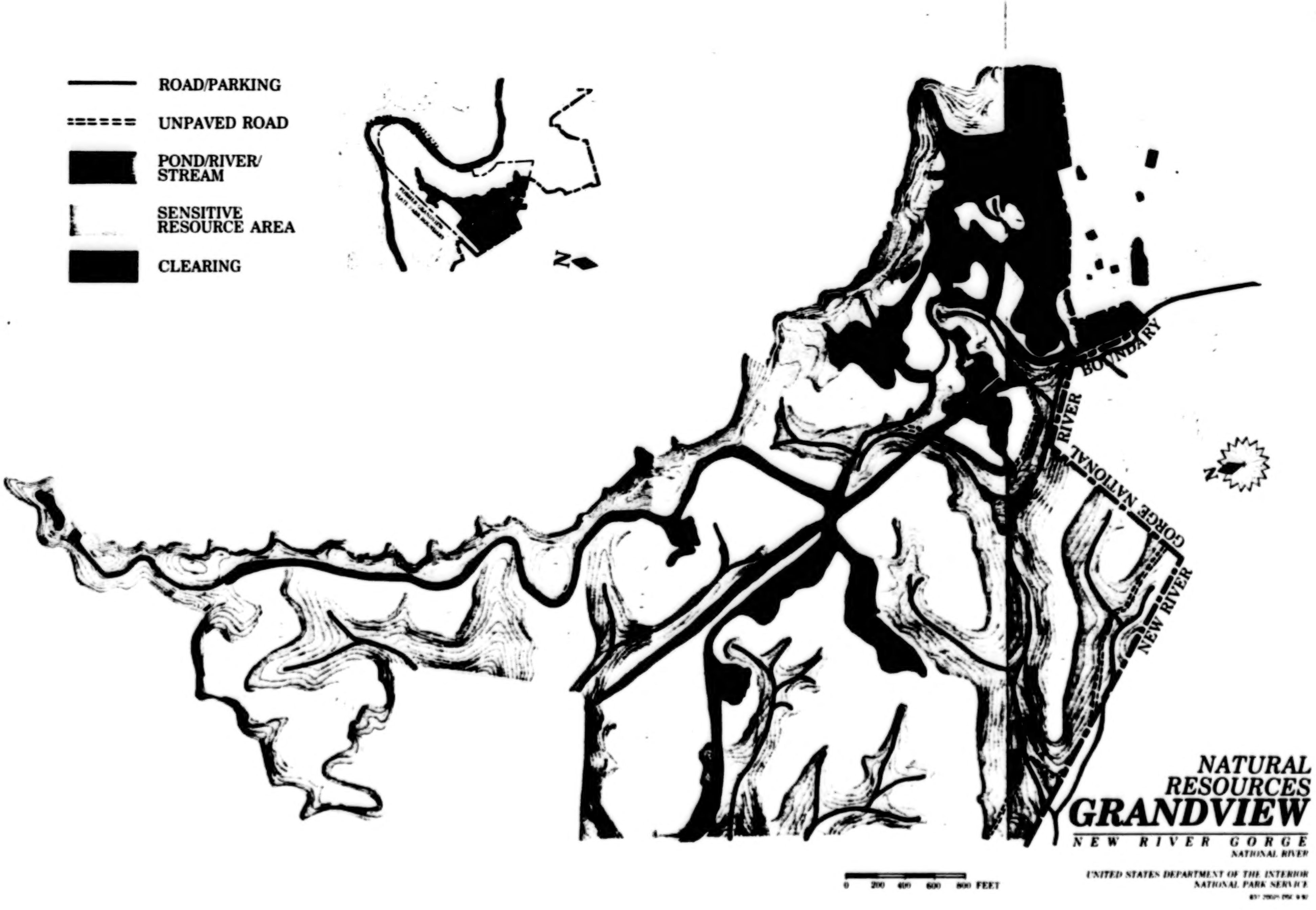

NATURAL RESOURCES
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create major cracks or "joints" that visitors enjoy exploring along the Tunnel trail. The many cracks, ledges, and outcrops provide various habitats along the cliffs for both flora and fauna species.

TABLE 2: AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

Month	Average Temperature (F)		Average Precipitation (in)
	Max	Min	
January	44	23	3.64
February	46	24	3.47
March	52	28	4.47
April	65	37	3.62
May	74	47	4.01
June	79	54	4.46
July	82	58	5.15
August	81	57	4.53
September	77	50	3.28
October	67	39	2.61
November	54	30	2.68
December	45	24	3.19

Source: USDA Soil Survey. Data from Veterans Hospital Station, Beckley, W.V.

Vegetation

Grandview is primarily made up of drier ridgetop habitats and upland mixed forest vegetative species (please see "Water Resources" section). Common overstory species include white, chestnut, black, and red oak; tulip poplar; white and Virginia pine; sourwood, beech, and shagbark hickory; and striped and red maple. At the shrub layer, spread throughout Grandview and especially along the canyon rim areas, are large stands of laurel and rhododendron thickets. Ornamental rhododendrons, planted in the parking lot islands, provide a spectacular flowering show in the early summer. Flowering dogwood, azalea, black locust, witch hazel, striped maple, white sassafras, river and black birch, serviceberry, and sumac are also common. Occasional black cherry, chestnut saplings, and hemlocks are seen along the hiking trails and in undisturbed shady areas.

The lower forest floor understory includes greenbriar vines, wild hydrangea, wintergreen, galax, and various species of moss such as ground pine. Most undisturbed areas on top of the small ridges are covered by a thick layer of humus, which includes decomposed leaf litter, fallen logs, and moss species. Ginseng may also be found in moister forested areas. Common wildflowers are blue phlox, downy yellow foxglove, Indian cucumber root, moccasin flower, pink ladyslipper, white trillium, and wild geranium. Occasional violet species may also be found. Many species of ferns, including bracken, fiddlehead, and blunt-lobed woodsia, can be found in the moist cliff areas along the hiking trails and roadsides.

Unusual for ridgetop sites in the New River area is the pond habitat, with its more aquatic species such as birch, cattails, nettle, and reeds growing along the shore.

Grandview has a rich diversity of microhabitats due to soil, moisture, topography, and other factors. Many of these areas represent habitats found throughout the New River Gorge. For example, the tributary stream habitats below Grandview's manmade pond and in the nearby drainages flowing off the northwestern flanks of the site contain beech, birch, hemlock, and sycamore species normally found in the riparian habitats at lower elevations.

As a result of extensive logging in the past, almost all of Grandview is second- or third-growth hardwoods and pine stands. Some old growth is found on the eastern part of the site below the canyon rim. A few, large, old-growth beech stands were also noted in the upper sections of McCreery Hollow during the field surveys.

Wildlife

Biological surveys of Grandview were conducted between 1986 and 1990 as part of the larger resource surveys conducted throughout New River gorge by the West Virginia Division of Natural Heritage. In addition, in spring of 1992 the National Park Service contracted with Marshall University to conduct more site-specific surveys at Grandview for rare species that could be affected by development. In this survey, up to 60 bird species were identified, including peregrine falcons soaring over the main overlooks and the Turkey Spur area. The site also contains 15 amphibian species and 11 mammal species. A complete table of the species observed in the 1992 Marshall survey are listed in appendix C.

Numerous small mammals, such as gray squirrel, fox squirrel, eastern chipmunk, raccoon, skunk, fox, rabbits, and opossum, and various small rodents inhabit the site. Nests of eastern woodrats can be found below the rims in rock crevices. The red squirrel, a species normally found in northern forests, may be seen at Grandview feeding on seed cones in the white pine stands. White-tailed deer are plentiful and are frequently seen along field and forest edges and in the mowed grassy areas of the picnic areas. Black bears have been sighted at Grandview, although infrequently. Occasional bobcat tracks along dirt roads and trails indicate that they may hunt along area ridgetops.

Songbirds are a significant wildlife species inhabiting the Grandview area. Species such as the rose-breasted grosbeak, ovenbirds, eastern bluebird, American robin, Carolina chickadees, chipping sparrows, various warblers, and cowbirds can often be found. Turkey vultures and ravens are seen frequently, especially near Turkey Spur, soaring on the winds and thermals rising above the river. In the fall, raptor sightings at Grandview may include Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, ospreys, and broad-winged hawks. Owls are in the area, but are infrequently seen or heard.

Some of Grandview's more abundant fauna are the various species of amphibians including salamanders, frogs, toads, and newts. The recent and previous surveys at Grandview have found red-spotted newt, red-backed salamander, wood frog, green frog, slimy salamander, seal salamander, and mountain dusky salamanders. The northern ringneck snake has also been found along with the black rat snake. Ridgetop habitats like Grandview also include dry rock outcrops and open areas where the two poisonous snakes of West Virginia — the copperhead and timber rattlesnake — are commonly found. Although both are infrequently reported at Grandview, numerous sightings of a timber rattlesnake have been made along the shoreline of the Grandview pond. Amphibian species are commonly found around the pond areas, in moist undisturbed forested areas, and along rock crevices and cracks.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Except for occasional transient species such as the peregrine falcon, no known or candidate species, or species of special concern were noted at Grandview.

Consultation with staff of the West Virginia Natural Heritage program noted potential concern for one state-listed rare species. The green salamander (*Aneides aeneus*) was collected near the canyon rim, and the species was again confirmed in the recent Marshall University survey conducted in 1992 (Dr. Tom Pauley, 1992 personal comm.). In addition, *Carex umbellata*, a state-listed rare sedge, was also found at the site in a 1986 rare vascular plant survey. Although not found in any identified potential development zone, other sites for *Carex umbellata* are along the canyon rim area.

The Marshall University survey investigated the potential for peregrine falcon nesting sites at Grandview. Peregrine falcons may nest and roost along the cliffs at Grandview, although no confirmed sightings are known at this time. The survey found one area along a remote section of the canyon rim that could have nesting potential, but no nesting was observed at the site.

No rare, threatened, or endangered species were found in the potential development zones.

Water Resources — Floodplains and Wetlands

Grandview is the boundary between two subwatersheds of the New River. The eastern slopes of the site drain into the Mill Creek watershed area, while the western drainages are a part of the Piney Creek watershed. The boundary for these two watersheds essentially parallels the Turkey Spur road bisecting the ridge at Grandview.

The eastern drainages are small intermittent channels that are significant in the local ecology of the site but would not be disturbed by any development at Grandview. The western drainages are also predominately intermittent, with the exception of two small streams — McCreery Hollow drains the Grandview pond and flows briefly into Piney

Creek before entering the New River at McCreery, and Panther Hollow flows directly into the New River near Terry Junction upstream from McCreery.

Piney Creek was noted by the state's 1981 *New River Basin Plan* and by a recent fecal coliform study conducted by New River's resource management staff as a very polluted stream because of inadequate upstream wastewater treatment facilities.

The site has numerous small intermittent drainages that are headwater areas for the small tributaries entering the New River. No floodplains, as defined or mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist onsite except a small area surrounding the pond and its inlet tributaries. Small seeps and springs, most of which flow heavily after rains, are also found throughout the site. A small drainage flow is near the visitor contact station, and there are groundwater seeps behind the amphitheater. Although these seeps and springs do not appear on the Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory maps, this does not mean these areas should not be classified as wetlands. While no direct development is proposed for any of these seep or spring areas, a wetlands identification and delineation survey should be done for the area (see "Impacts on Water Resources" section for special needs of these areas during construction).

Grandview pond is classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded and diked wetland area. The pond was built in 1960 for fire protection. At that time it had a capacity of 36,000 gallons. The pond also acts as a water quality filter for upstream farm ponds that normally would drain directly into the New River. The pond, which is relatively isolated from heavy visitor use areas, has become an important wetland resource on the site. Ponds and wetlands of this type are fairly rare in the ridgetop areas of the park.

To assess water quality of the pond area and McCreery Hollow draining into the New River, the New River Gorge National River Resource Management Branch conducted water quality tests. Results indicated extremely low levels of fecal coliform bacteria, especially when compared to other creeks in the surrounding area. Results showed a membrane filter count (mfc) of <4mfc/100ml for the pond and a 5.3 mfc/100ml for the creek. For comparison, state standards for water quality suitable for bodily contact in West Virginia are 200 mfc/100 ml. Other parameters also indicated good to excellent water quality at Grandview with no existing pollution problems. The low fecal coliform bacteria counts were somewhat unusual for the area, and the field staff notes that the site may contain higher amounts in different conditions than the test periods, but the indications are that even when elevated, the pond and creek areas draining Grandview are well within the acceptable ranges defined by the state.

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Since its days as a state park, Grandview has experienced heavy visitation. While in the state park system, Grandview attracted approximately 500,000 visitors annually. Since becoming a part the New River Gorge National River in 1990, Grandview has reported visitation of approximately 255,000 a year.

A market study was completed in June 1993 by the Denver Service Center, Concessions Planning and Analysis Division, for Grandview. The study examined the market conditions for the proposed cultural heritage center and related commercial services, the types of available operational agreements, funding sources, and the potential role of partnerships, and provided an initial feasibility analysis for the center.

The results of the analysis showed that visitation under alternatives 1 and 2 would increase with the development of the cultural heritage program and could reach 350,000 within three years of a program initiative. The study estimates that potential visitation to Grandview would be approximately 650,000 under alternatives 3-5. Alternative 4 had the potential to attract additional visitors that may stay longer due to the number and type of activities proposed under this alternative. After development, visitation increases would reflect the average increase experienced by the NPS units as a whole. As described under alternatives 4 and 5, the center would need an estimated $480,000 a year to cover operational costs and an estimated $600,000 to $800,000 for programming. Based on 400,000 annual visitors to the cultural heritage center, an average admission fee of $2 per visitor would produce sufficient funds to operate the center and to fund some programs. A restaurant and gift shop could provide an additional $400,000 annually, which could be used to fund program activities. Many programs would also be self-supporting.

Before design and construction of the center, a feasibility study should be conducted to confirm this initial analysis.

THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER STUDY FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

STUDY HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In preparation for the cultural heritage program at Grandview, the American Folklife Center, part of the Library of Congress, was contracted to conduct a preliminary field study of folklife and related resources in the vicinity of the New River Gorge in southern West Virginia. Planning for the study began in August 1991, and fieldwork began in December and continued through May 1992.

The study was to research the development of programs and products for the program and provide guidance on design concepts for a center. The field team gathered information on existing cultural conservation in Raleigh, Fayette, and Summers counties and on economic development initiatives at local, state, and regional levels.

The team found a strong network and a wide range of cultural conservation and economic development initiatives currently in place. Cultural conservation initiatives range from grassroots efforts such as family reunions to institutional efforts such as the programs available at the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia. Economic development initiatives include individual efforts such as bed-and-breakfast accommodations and community and statewide programs.

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

A brief summary of the American Folklife Center study and recommendations is given below; additional information and description of the study recommendations can be found in appendix B and in the study itself, *The Grandview Cultural Heritage Center, Draft Recommendations* (June 1992).

Program's Mission and Purpose

The cultural heritage program should focus on activities that accurately reflect the culture, traditions, and values of central Appalachia. Interpretive activities and workshop topics should include traditional craft demonstrations, music, dance, storytelling, drama, and festival presentations. To ensure a dynamic flexibility in the programs offered, continuing research and study of the central Appalachian culture should be an important component of the program.

The mission of the cultural heritage program should be to

> conserve and interpret the folklife of communities along the New River Gorge National River and throughout southern West Virginia
>
> interpret the folklife of central Appalachia

The program would serve diverse constituencies. Described most broadly, those constituencies are the area residents and visitors from outside New River. The program should serve both groups, recognizing the different educational, leisure, and social interests. Activities that are multifaceted and participation-oriented would have the widest interest. Involving regional residents in the origination and presentation of these activities would facilitate a healthy cultural exchange and reduce negative stereotyping.

The overall purpose of the cultural heritage program would be to

increase visitor understanding and appreciation of central Appalachian mountain culture

contribute to the continuance of traditional central Appalachian culture and its diverse art forms

stimulate and encourage the economic development in southern West Virginia

Program Operations

The program would include three basic principal functions: public programs and activities, community partnership programs and activities, and research. Implementing these functions would achieve the following two objectives:

the production of programs that present and interpret the folk culture of southern West Virginia and the broader Appalachian region to visitors, communities of the region, and the general public

promoting and assisting collaboration with other southern West Virginia and national organizations in the interpretation of the regional culture

Staffing. Based on the projected functions and programs, the American Folklife study identified the need for a center staff of approximately nine, full-time professionals, as well as additional temporary staff for special projects and the summer season for a fully operational center and program (described under alternatives 4 and 5). This projection rests on the understanding that facility maintenance and other services would be provided by the National Park Service and that NPS and center staff would collaborate on some projects.

Full-time positions for a fully operational center and program would include

executive director
communications specialist
folklife specialist
business manager
community resources specialist
research specialist
clerk-typist

secretary
programs and technical assistant

The above staff would be responsible for the center's program development and implementation. A successful and growing center might required additional staff in the following areas in the future: communications and public information; creating, editing, and producing publications; visual design; computer programming; and audiovisual programs.

Funding. Most effective similar institutions develop budgets that reflect a judicious mix of public funding, private support through grants and donations, and earned income from admissions and product sales. The center could also share costs and benefits by collaborating with other agencies and institutions. Support for the center might come from various sources, including appropriations, grants and donations, earned income, and in-kind support.

Facilities. Based on the proposed functions and activities, the following facilities should be included for a fully operational center:

General
    Reception area with limited exhibition space
    Gift shop
    Administrative offices
    Lodge facilities, accommodating 40-60, for center-sponsored activities

Program Areas
    Gallery space
    Workshop area
    Flexible-size theater
    Gathering spaces
    Dance and music hall
    Conference and meeting rooms

Research Area
    Reading/listening/viewing area
    Darkroom
    Media studio
    Print room
    Climate-controlled library and small archival space

Community Partnership Area
    Classroom space
    Picnic areas and pavilions
    Informal community/family space
    Dining facility
    Indoor/outdoor play facilities for children, fully equipped and health department certified
    kitchen and outdoor preparation facilities

Coordination with Other Activities at Grandview

If the program/center is to succeed financially and functionally, careful coordination with existing activities at Grandview, including Theatre West Virginia performances at Cliffside amphitheater and NPS programs and activities, is important.

The center should maintain connection with the National Park Service through several channels. The center and the New River Gorge National River should maintain a high level of communication, interaction, and mutual support, with staff cooperating on programs wherever possible. Interpretive programming by the National Park Service, whether located at Grandview or elsewhere in the park, could be drawn upon for center programs, which could in turn augment NPS programs. Nature walks, interpretation of historic sites, and the "New River Neighbors" series all offer rich opportunities for collaboration. One such example of the potential for collaboration is provided in the "Family Day at Grandview" summer program.

THE ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION

This section describes the five alternatives for development of the Grandview site.

Early in the planning process, Grandview was divided into development zones. Development of new facilities could be pursued only within the zones where they would have minimal effect on natural and cultural resources. Areas outside those zones were excluded from consideration for development due to the presence of sensitive natural resources, cultural resources, or slopes considered too steep for building (see Development Zones map).

The cultural heritage program element identified under each of the proposed alternatives would have varying degrees of contact and interaction with similar programs and cultural heritage facilities on the regional and national levels. The primary factors that may determine the level of contact and cooperation would be staff and funds. (See the "Interpretive Prospectus" section of this document for estimated staff needs and costs.)

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES (2-5)

Sustainable Design

The National Park Service has established guidelines for sustainable design to be used in all planning efforts throughout the national park system. The following material, excerpted from these guidelines, will be followed in the design proposals for Grandview.

> The concept of sustainable design recognizes that human civilization is an integral part of the natural world and that nature must be preserved and perpetuated if the human community itself is to survive. This concept is articulated through building designs that exemplify the principals of conservation and encourage the application of those principals in daily living. A supporting corollary concept, bioregionalism, states that all life is established and maintained on a functional community basis and that all the distinctive bioregions have mutually supporting life systems that are generally self-sustaining. Sustainable design holds that future technologies must function primarily within bioregional patterns and scales. These technologies must maintain biological diversity and environmental integrity, contribute to the health of air, water, and soils, incorporate design and construction that reflect bioregional conditions, and reduce the impacts of human use.

In theory, many of the individual components of sustainable design are not new. However, there is still much to learn regarding the practical application of viable techniques which place an emphasis on a biocentric perspective rather than the human factor around which the environment is manipulated. The concept of sustainable design as applied at Grandview underscores a commitment to maintaining and, where necessary, restoring the environmental integrity as well as preserving and conserving valued and intrinsic natural

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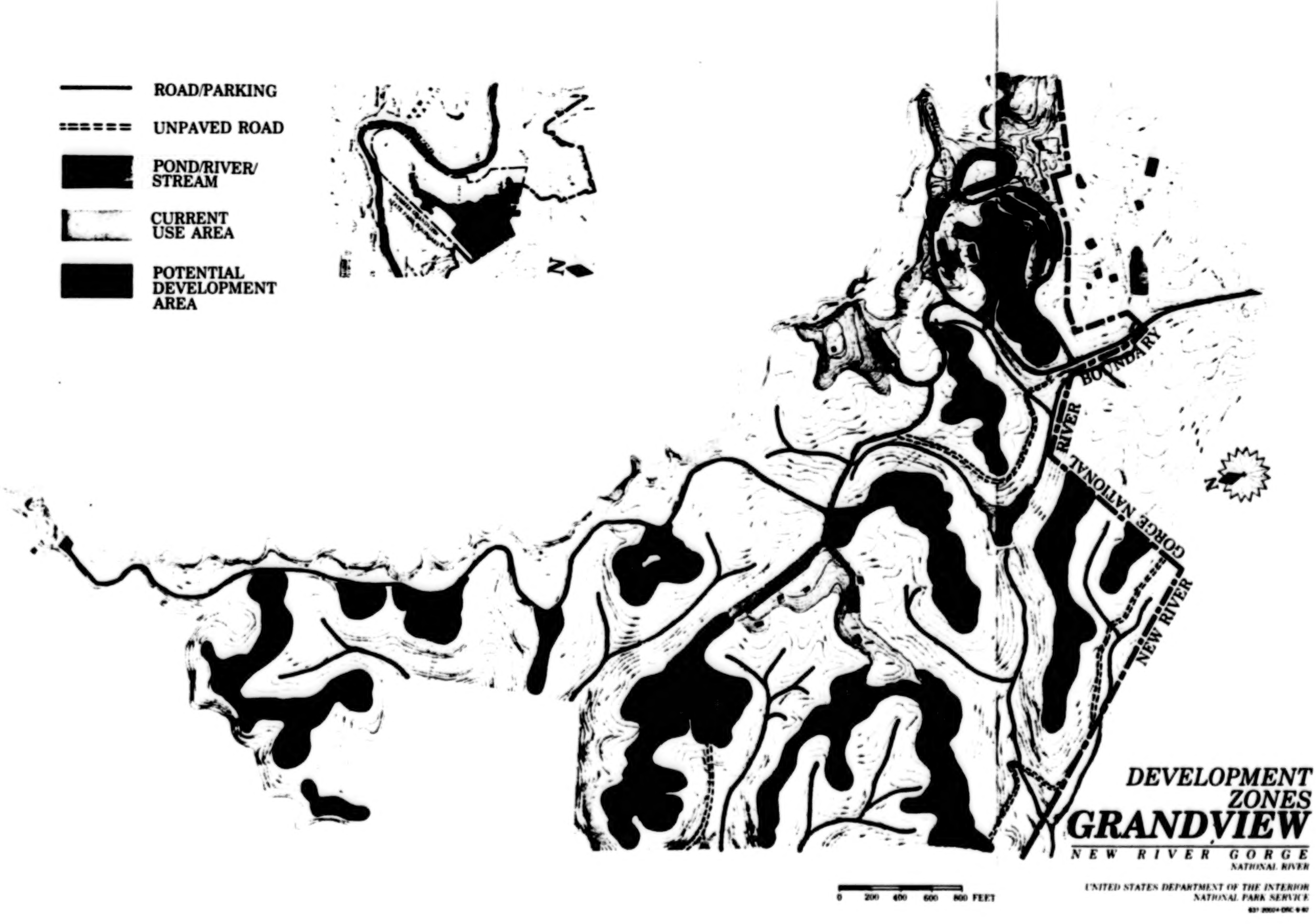
ROAD/PARKING
UNPAVED ROAD
POND/RIVER/STREAM
CURRENT USE AREA
POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA
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BOUNDARY
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NATIONAL
GORGE
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and cultural resources. Successful integration of an expanded human presence at Grandview would result from the commitment to acquiring indepth knowledge of the underlying natural systems and the processes that regenerate and sustain that environment.

Inherent in any sustainable design concept plan is flexibility. The plan must have a built-in capacity to continually assess the impacts of intervention. From inception, decisions regrading the program and facilities for Grandview must reflect a conscious effort to defer to sound ecological principles. All phases of planning, design, construction, interpretation, and maintenance should focus on implementing an integrated site-environment relationship.

A low-tech, low-key development framework that fits into the site rather than onto the site is called for at Grandview. A quality cultural heritage program is integrally related to maintaining the ecological and aesthetic health of the site.

The principles of sustainable design and visitor use management would serve as guidelines for the development at Grandview. These principles would be supplemented with provisions for site preparation, grading, clearing, avoiding natural vegetation and wildlife habitat loss, and revegetation and habitat restoration where necessary. Examples of practices include saving topsoil and forest duff and litter in stockpiles near cleared area for reapplication on disturbed areas. These piles would contain seeds, roots, cuttings, and natural soil biotics such as mycorrizal fungi that would enhance the revegetation efforts and retain plant material genetically associated with Grandview.

In keeping with the philosophy of sustainable design, composting organic waste at Grandview was considered. Composting is, in the simplest terms, the natural biological reduction or breakdown of organic waste to humus. Providing rich nutrients and organic matter, humus is highly beneficial as a soil conditioner and fertilizer. There are many different methods of composting in use such as Indore method, Bio-Dynamic method, and the Ogden step-by-step method. As currently identified, the composting of organic material at Grandview will require three 10-foot by 20-foot bins placed within the area currently identified as the new park operations center in alternatives 2-5. The actual method of composting should be decided by the maintenance staff to address their specific needs.(See appendix D for the design/construction guidelines.)

Visitor Use Management

The environmental characteristics that have made Grandview a popular destination, including the view from the rim, the forests, the rhododendron thickets, and natural rock grottos, are also the features that are most sensitive to disturbance and overuse. The point at which human activity and its impacts begin to alter the habitat balance at Grandview are inherently restrictive, particularly in the deep shade of the steep slopes. To conserve, preserve, restore, and sustain the character and health of the Grandview environment, careful management of visitor use and education would be critical objectives.

The traditional activities associated with Grandview, including the family reunions, picnics, and ballgames, directly affect sensitive habitat areas. From an ecological standpoint, the canyon rim cannot withstand intensive use; however, from a cultural standpoint, the overlooks, picnic area 1, and the caves are a focal point of significant traditional regional use. The challenge in establishing guidelines for managing Grandview would be resolving the essential need for low-density use with pockets of high-density use and establishing a way to mediate and connect the two without endangering the habitat. The design and future management of Grandview would continue to accommodate those elements of serenity, privacy, and restorative opportunities while offering gathering places for social exchange.

Visitor use management is comprised of two elements — social and environmental. Establishing limits or thresholds beyond which increased numbers of people pose a threat to the resources depends on the perceived desired visitor experience. This qualitative aspect is envisioned through a perceived model while the quantitative aspect is measured and monitored through physical damage to the habitat.

The impact of increased numbers of visitors on the social condition of the site is not easily monitored, but a model based on the desired visitor experience can serve as a qualitative objective. Expectations of current visitors revolve around two seemingly opposite values — a deep love of Grandview's fragile and irreplaceable natural beauty and intense recreational use in sensitive habitat areas.

Monitoring of selected indicator species from particular habitats at Grandview can alert management to overuse. Baseline plots, showing the diverse habitats at Grandview, could also be compiled for comparative observation.

Temporal management of Grandview's resources, including rotational use of areas and scheduling events to disperse impacts while providing interpretation that educates the public on the critical environmental issues at Grandview, is a management style that is grounded in a commitment to intervene on the behalf of the resource. The key lies in compensatory management that routinely monitors and then directly addresses issues of overuse.

Economic Development

The economic principle behind the creation of a cultural heritage program and/or center at Grandview is to cultivate cultural tourism as a means to attract development to southern West Virginia. The individual artisan or demonstrator would be provided an opportunity to showcase both their talent and craft to an interested public. While assisting in the conservation and interpretation of regional art forms, the artisan would also develop a public appreciation for a craft that could lead to increased sales. On a more regional level, the center's educational activities would be integrated with those already in place or being developed by other organizations. As discussed under the "Relationship to Other Planning Efforts" section, the ability of this center to offer technical support and programming opportunities to other organizations as well as the visiting public would do much to encourage cultural conservation and interpretation as well as provide the means for economic stimulation.

Design/Architectural Guidelines

To ensure that all Grandview development is of a consistent quality and presents a unified architectural image appropriate to this unique context, design guidelines would be written early in the preliminary design work. These guidelines would address architectural and site development elements and serve as the basis for new construction, maintenance, and renovation.

Several historical contexts have been identified by the region's List of Classified Structures team, the American Folklife Center, the cultural landscape assessment, and the park's historic context study that may be applicable to the built environment of Grandview. Typical development patterns resulted in structures clustered together because of the difficulties of terrain and the need for access to available transportation. The structures tended to share certain elements, pitched gable-ended roofs, covered porches, and brick chimneys. Additions often occurred as shed-roofed lean-tos. Larger community structures included company stores and churches. Structures were commonly wood-framed, finished with horizontal, or less typically, vertical wood siding having little decorative trim. At Grandview, simple, clustered structures may provide an appropriate stage for the presentation of the center's activities.

Site elements, such as water fountains, paved trails, benches, and retaining walls that are not associated with the buildings, may reflect the CCC construction work at Grandview. This stone and timber building style would provide a link to the natural as well as cultural resource story.

Initial development of the design/construction guidelines philosophy is in appendix D.

Management Options for a Center

Five possible management options have been identified for the facilities that would comprise the cultural heritage center. Those options include the National Park Service, a concessioner, a nonprofit organization, a cooperating association, or a legislated commission. With the range of services and activities recommended for the center, it may be preferable to secure more than one management group to operate the various facilities.

There are two nonprofit options — an educational and cultural organization with ties to the National Park Service could be created, or a cooperative agreement might also be reached with an existing group to develop and manage the center. A college, university, or other cultural institution with similar mission-related expectations as the park could also operate as a cooperating association.

Federal legislation creating a commission and authorizing appropriations to develop and manage the center could also be pursued. The legislation could incorporate ties to the park and provide legal authority for the center's income-producing activities.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup

The modular housing unit just east of the main park entrance would be removed. A new residence would be constructed near the small dump site off picnic area 3 used throughout the years for disposal of various items in a large pit. The pit is approximately 200 square feet in area. Most of the pit is covered with dirt, with some items still exposed. This dump would require a primary assessment for hazardous materials to determine if the dump might contain hazardous substances that would require further levels of assessment, and ultimately a cleanup of the materials. The study would be primarily a visual assessment of the site and a check of state records to confirm or detect the possibility of hazardous materials. If the primary assessment confirms potential materials, EPA and Department of the Interior regulations and policies would be followed to continue assessments and create a plan for remediating the site. Initial assessment of the site found no potential hazardous materials visible; however, further formal investigation is required. A nearby optional site for the park housing unit has been chosen if hazardous materials are found that require extensive cleanup procedures under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or other federal and state laws pertaining to hazardous materials. At a minimum, regardless of the materials found in the study, the dump site would be properly cleaned and all materials removed to a suitable landfill or recycling center before construction began.

Alternate Existing Facilities

Under all alternatives, other locations within New River Gorge National River and the region at large could also be considered as sites for programming activities to occur. Within the park, other sites to consider include such areas as the Thurmond commercial structures, Quinnimont, and the Prince Brothers Store. Trump-Lilly could be used for an artist-in-residence or agricultural education function. As discussed under the "Relationship to other Planning Efforts" section, partnerships with other facilities and existing programs outside the park could provide other locations from which to stage or cosponsor programming activities. Whether inside or outside the park, consideration and use of existing facilities to host programming activities has many benefits. The concept of sustainable design clearly advocates the use of existing facilities as appropriate to meet specific programming requirements. The use of other facilities could also reduce site and parking congestion at Grandview, especially under alternatives 4 and 5."

Cultural Resources

An archeological testing program conducted during the summer of 1992 identified five prehistoric and two historic sites as needing additional investigations if development is planned at or near them. The Park Service is working to avoid potential site impacts through the planning and design phases. If impacts to archeological resources are unavoidable, appropriate excavation measures will be undertaken to mitigate those impacts. Precautions would be taken under all alternatives to stabilize and protect the building foundations within the core area.

A cultural landscape assessment (CLA) is underway to evaluate Grandview's eligibility under national register criterion for listing as a cultural landscape. Grandview was planned collaboratively between the National Park Service and the state of West Virginia in the late 1930s. Given the information currently available, it is likely that Grandview is a product of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CLA is expected to also address questions of site integrity.

Natural Resources

The sandstone cliff areas at Grandview are critical areas for protecting habitat for any of the rare species and diverse microhabitats found in the Grandview area. Visitor use would be kept to a minimum in these areas, and no additional development would be permitted except for minor trail maintenance.

General Development

The parking areas and roads within Grandview were repaved during the early 1960s. That pavement is nearing the end of its 20-year life expectancy. Up to 52,000 square feet of road area, including 14,200 square feet of existing parking, would eventually need to be replaced under alternatives 2-5. In keeping with the sustainable design philosophy replacement of that pavement would be done with material that would reduce runoff and increase the infiltration properties of the developed areas.

The road from the park operations center to the Turkey Spur overlook currently experiences heavy vehicular traffic. The road is 14 feet wide and ends in a small parking area (approximately 10 spaces) by the overlook. The road has narrow inside curves and is beginning to show signs of sagging in some of the shoulder areas. Water seepage has also resulted in a drainage problem. The current condition of the road and the expected increase in visitation to Grandview points to a need to provide more and safer access to the overlook. In alternatives 2-5, a new loop parking area would be constructed about 1,700 feet from Turkey Spur overlook. The 1,700 feet from the loop parking area to the overlook would be limited to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Minimal regrading work would be done on the existing road to make it accessible to those with physical disabilities. Rest areas with benches would be provided.

A parkwide trail plan is currently underway. Future plans for the 10 hiking trails and connecting paths at Grandview will be discussed in that document. Cycling has long been a popular activity at Grandview and would continue to be encouraged within the site under all alternatives. However, because of the limited access into the site along Route 9 (two lanes, no shoulders, restricted sight distance), cycling into Grandview would not be encouraged.

All new signs erected at Grandview would comply with the parkwide sign plan as well as any other applicable NPS guidelines.

Cliffside Amphitheater

In response to local interest and desires voiced by Theatre West Virginia, the possibility of constructing a roof over Cliffside Amphitheater was explored by the planning team under alternatives 2-5. The range of possibilities considered included a cover just for the stage area to covering both the stage and audience areas. Materials from canvas to metal were also considered. The team also considered manual operation and retractable systems.

The Park Service has never before attempted this type of construction. Theatrix Inc., of Englewood, Colorado, was contacted to provide the planning team with advice. Theatrix is a theater service for the design, lighting, sound, and special effects used in theaters. Theatrix also contacted four other A&E firms with experience in designing large roofing systems and/or domed stadiums — Hoffend and Sons, J.R. Clancy, Thomas Engineering, and Byrd Air. They concluded that the engineering technology is currently available to construct a roofing system. It was the opinion of the firms that a retractable system can "probably" be engineered and constructed at a cost of about $5 million. A retractable system has not likely been done before at this scale and would be an engineering challenge, perhaps a first.

A base cost estimate of $4 million has been added to alternatives 2-5 for covering Cliffside Amphitheater. In making a decision to cover the amphitheater, the following issues should be considered during the design phase of the project:

- possible substantial damage to viewsheds
- possible damage to aesthetic character of Grandview
- engineering challenge
- costs (estimated $2-6 million)
- no in-house expertise
- possible additional funding required to redesign the sound and lighting systems

ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Concept

Under the no-action alternativie, Grandview would continue to be operated as it currently is with the addition of the program elements recommended in the American Folklife Study.

Facilities

Visitor Use. No new visitor facilities would be considered for the Grandview site.

Park Operations. No new operations facilities would be considered for the Grandview site. Work such as trail maintenance and road stabilization would continue. The expertise provided by park staff would be based on priorities and hiring field personnel to implement those priorities.

NPS Interpretation

The existing NPS interpretive staff (two permanent rangers and four seasonal rangers) and facilities would remain at Grandview. NPS staff would implement as much of the cultural heritage program as staffing and current facilities would allow.

Circulation/Parking

The existing circulation pattern would continue, and existing parking would be inadequate.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Concept

This alternative would focus on upgrading visitor use facilities and hiring additional NPS interpretive staff to implement the cultural heritage program at existing facilities. (See the Alternative 2 map.) Although there would be additional NPS interpretive staff to develop/implement the expanded cultural heritage program under this alternative, there would not be enough staff with the necessary expertise as identified by the American Folklife Center to fully develop the program.

In keeping with the principles of sustainable design, the existing asphalt would be replaced as necessary with asphalt designed to reduce runoff and to increase the infiltration properties of the developed areas. Depending on which alternative is selected, up to 37,800 square feet of road area and 14,200 square feet of existing parking would be replaced.

Facilities

Visitor Use. The modular visitor contact station would be replaced with a new, 3,000-square-foot station at the same location with office space for interpretive rangers. A loop road and a new parking area with room for 34 cars and two buses would be constructed off Turkey Spur. All facilities would be accessible to people with disabilities (see the Turkey Spur Area map).

Park Operations. Under this alternative, new protection, ranger, fire protection and law enforcement facilities, a new sewage treatment facility, a new park operations center, maintenance shop, and one staff housing unit adjacent to picnic area 3 would be constructed. The overhead Appalachian Power Company powerlines would be placed underground (see the Park Operations Center map).

Cliffside Amphitheater. A roof would be placed on the amphitheater.

Superintendent's Residence and Modular Housing Unit. The 1,200-square-foot single-family/superintendent's residence in the park operations center is owned by the state parks section of the West Virginia Division of Commerce. If the state does not remove or relocate the residence, the National Park Service would remove or relocate the structure.

Building Foundations. The building foundations within the core area would be stabilized and interpreted as part of the history of Grandview.

NPS Interpretation

The visitor contact station space and NPS interpretive program would be expanded to meet the needs of the expected additional visitors. Informational brochures, books, and other material would be available at the visitor contact station. Photo exhibits and activity boards would display daily, weekly, and special events and visitor opportunities available at other locations. Programs such as nature hikes, campfire programs, cultural history talks and walks, and the New River Neighbor Program would be expanded. Wayside exhibits and bulletin boards could be used at the overlooks and in high traffic areas to orient visitors, identify facilities, and inform visitors as to activity schedules, emergency procedures, rules and regulations, and safety concerns.

Circulation/Parking

The existing circulation pattern would continue, and parking would be provided for 657 cars and two buses. A complete breakdown of parking spaces by area can be found in the "Environmental Consequences" section.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Concept

In this alternative, minimal structural development would be pursued at Grandview to house a cultural heritage center. Management of the center would hire the staff necessary to implement center programs and activities.

Facilities

The roof on the Cliffside amphitheater, the relocation or removal of the 1,200-square-foot superintendent's residence, the removal of the modular housing unit, the hazardous materials survey for the new housing site, and interpretation of the building foundations behind the current visitor contact station would be as described under alternative 2.

Visitor Use. As in alternative 2, a loop road and a new parking area would be constructed off Turkey Spur. In addition, a cluster of buildings (or a group of buildings under one roof) would be constructed to house orientation, restrooms, an interpretation/information desk, administration, craft sales, a lobby, and a gallery (see the Cultural Heritage Center, Alternative 3 map). Offices and space for interpretive rangers would also be provided in this structure. This group of buildings would be attached to or placed next to Cliffside

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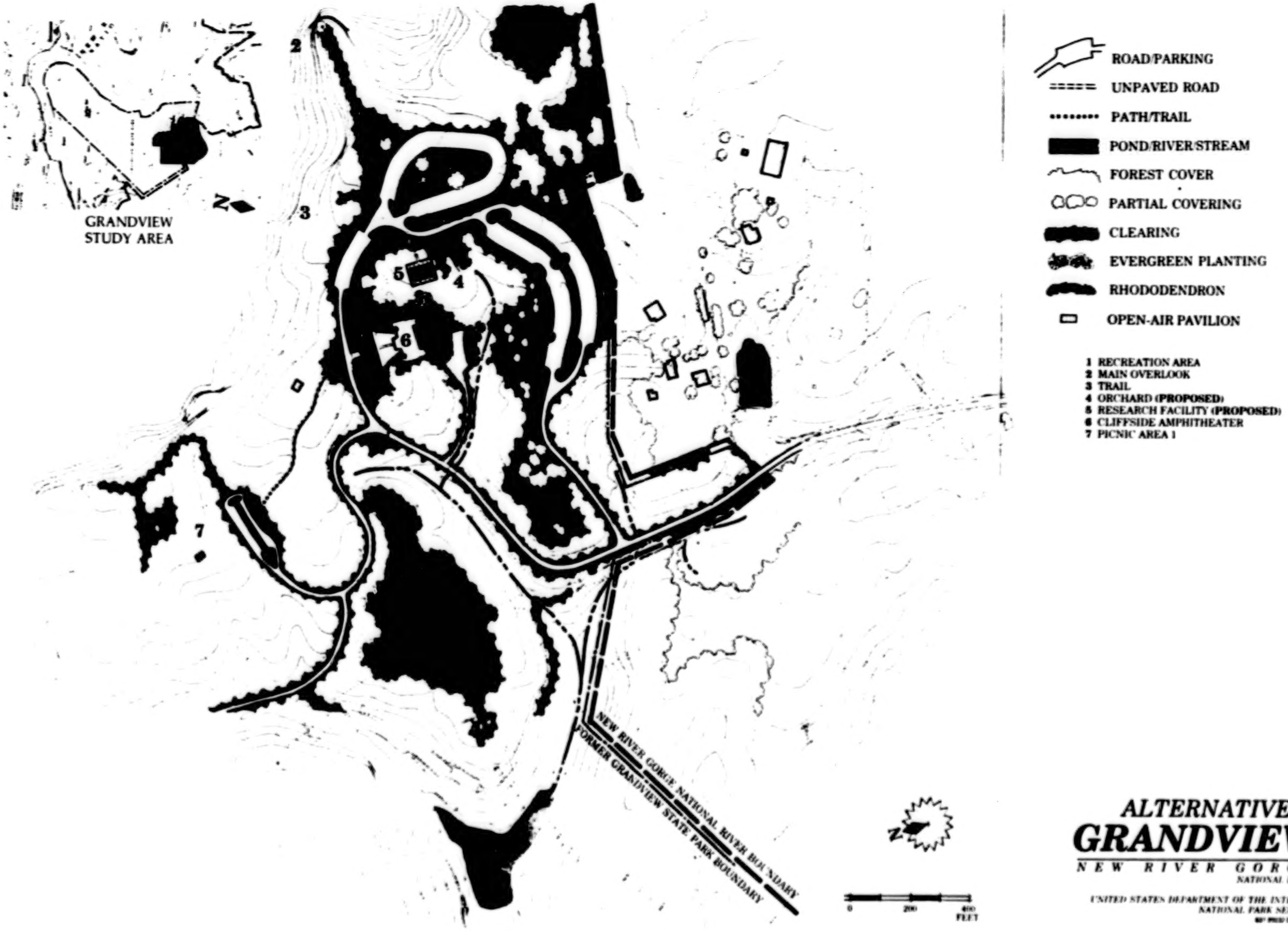

ALTERNATIVE 2
GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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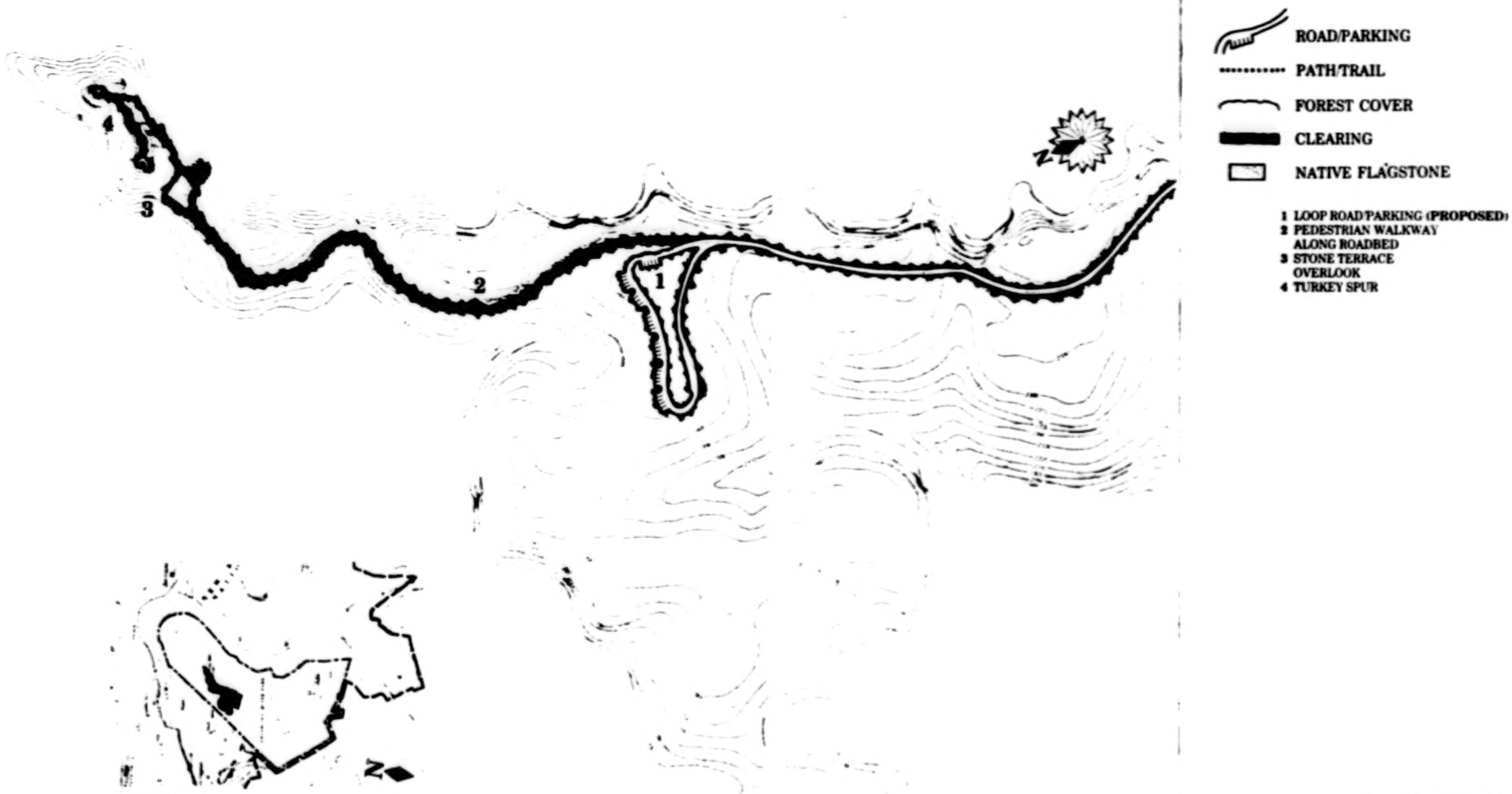

GRANDVIEW
STUDY AREA

TURKEY SPUR AREA
ALTERNATIVE 2, 3, 4, & 5
GRANDVIEW
NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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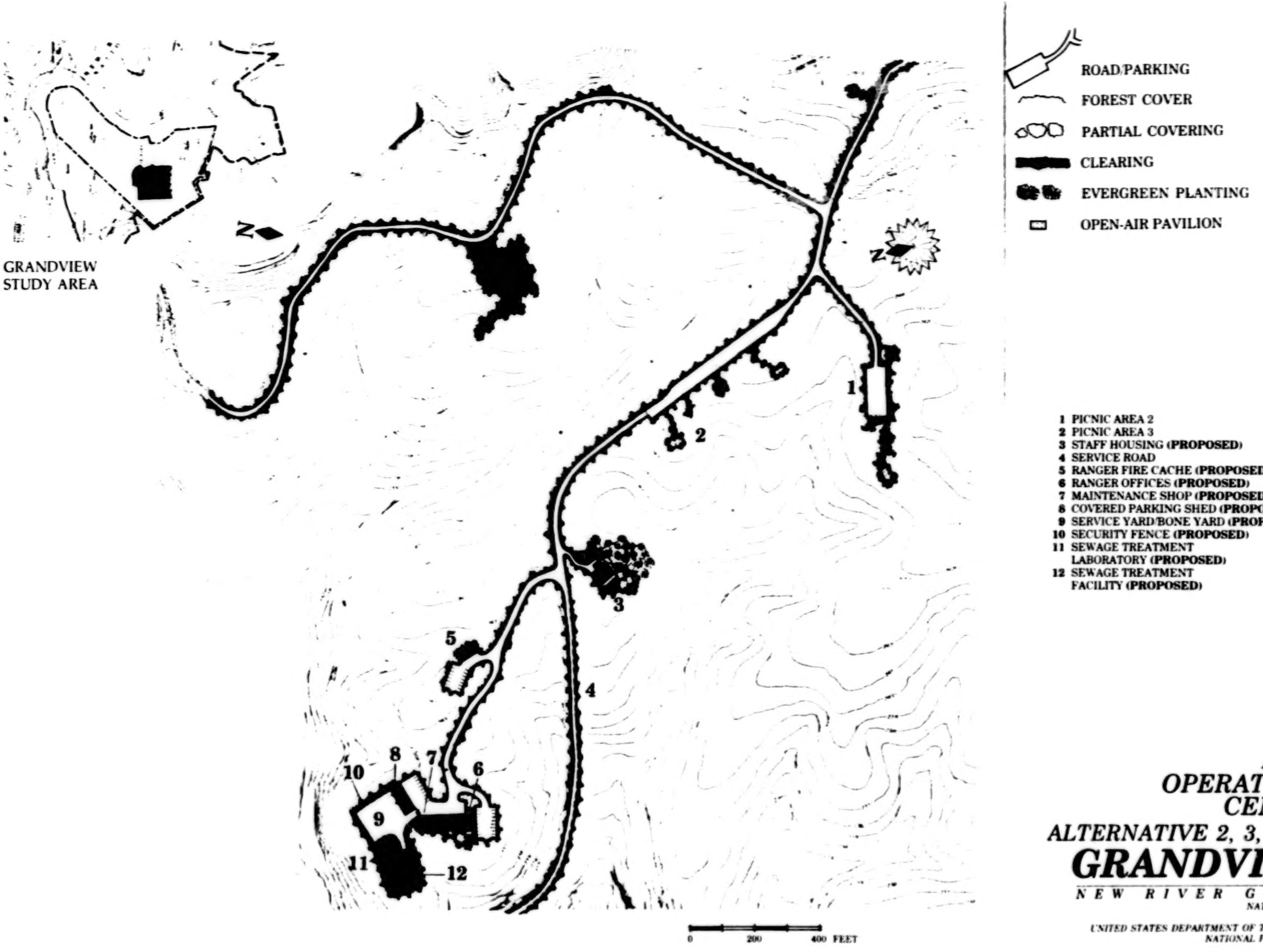

1 PICNIC AREA 2
2 PICNIC AREA 3
3 STAFF HOUSING **(PROPOSED)**
4 SERVICE ROAD
5 RANGER FIRE CACHE **(PROPOSED)**
6 RANGER OFFICES **(PROPOSED)**
7 MAINTENANCE SHOP **(PROPOSED)**
8 COVERED PARKING SHED **(PROPOSED)**
9 SERVICE YARD/BONE YARD **(PROPOSED)**
10 SECURITY FENCE **(PROPOSED)**
11 SEWAGE TREATMENT LABORATORY **(PROPOSED)**
12 SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY **(PROPOSED)**

PARK OPERATIONS CENTER
ALTERNATIVE 2, 3, 4 & 5
GRANDVIEW

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NATIONAL RIVER

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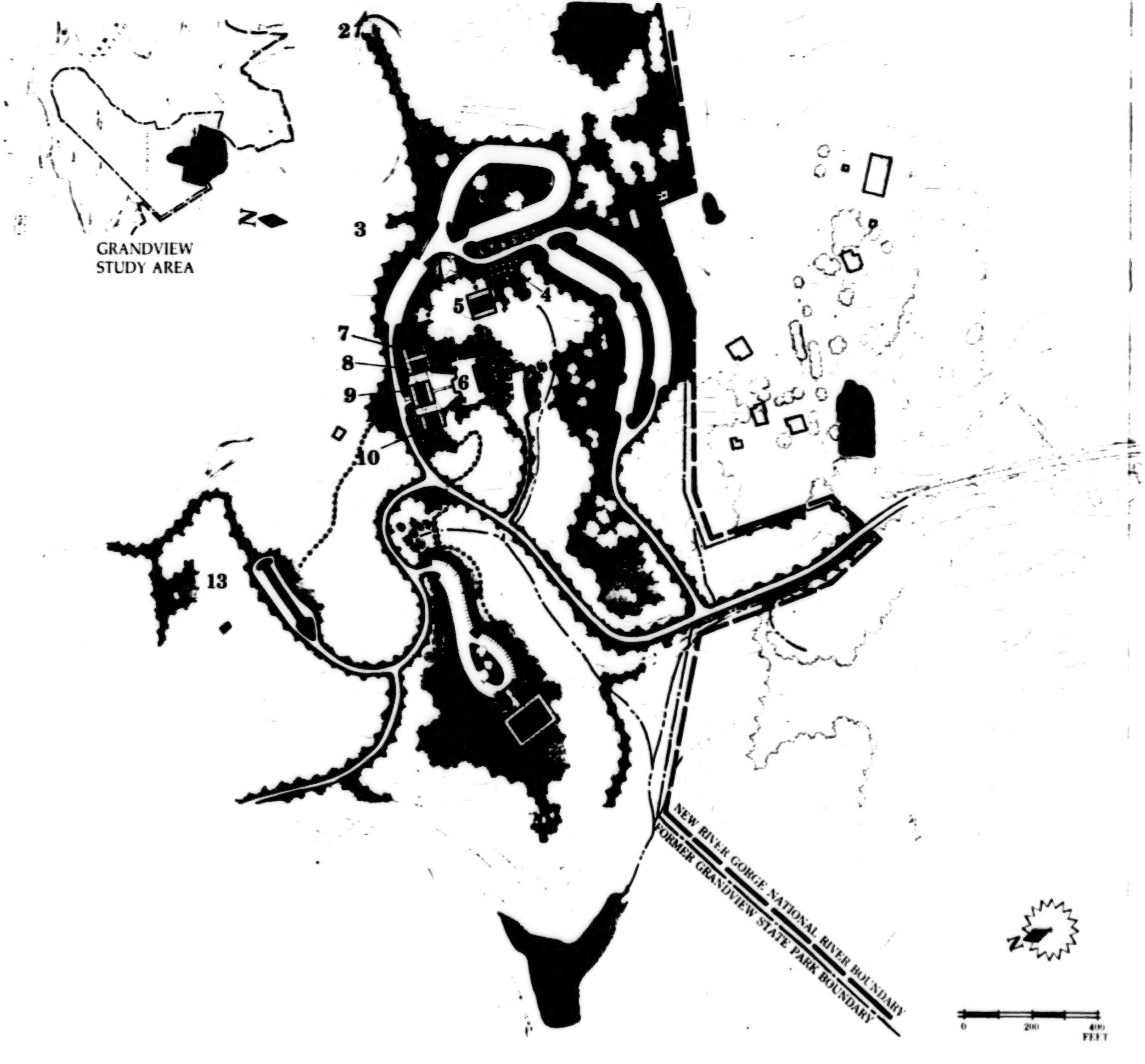
GRANDVIEW
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NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER BOUNDARY
FORMER GRANDVIEW STATE PARK BOUNDARY
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▬ POND/RIVER/STREAM
FOREST COVER
PARTIAL COVERING
▬ CLEARING
EVERGREEN PLANTING
RHODODENDRON
RUSTIC BRIDGE
▭ OPEN-AIR PAVILION
☐ NATIVE FLAGSTONE

1 RECREATION AREAS
2 MAIN OVERLOOK
3 TRAILS
4 ORCHARD **(PROPOSED)**
5 RESEARCH FACILITY **(PROPOSED)**
6 CLIFFSIDE AMPHITHEATER
7 MULTIUSE AREA **(PROPOSED)**
8 ADMINISTRATION/RESTROOMS **(PROPOSED)**
10 SALES/DEMONSTRATION **(PROPOSED)**
11 COMMUNITY HALL **(PROPOSED)**
12 FESTIVAL MEADOW **(PROPOSED)**
13 PICNIC AREA 1

CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER ALTERNATIVE 3

GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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amphitheater. In addition, the entry at the Cliffside amphitheater would be replaced. The existing visitor contact station would be removed and the area revegetated. The research facility would be adjacent to the current visitor contact station. The Festival meadow space would extend west from the amphitheater to the current park operations center. The meadow is envisioned as an open space used for center-sponsored activities. A dance hall/kitchen/multipurpose facility would be constructed in the meadow. All facilities would be accessible to people with disabilities.

Park Operations. As in alternative 2, new ranger, fire protection and law enforcement facilities, a new sewage treatment facility, a new park operations center, maintenance shop, and one staff housing unit would be constructed adjacent to picnic area 3.

NPS Interpretation

Under alternative 3, the Park Service would provide visitors with basic park orientation information, and the interpretive program would be expanded to meet the needs of the expected additional visitors. Informational brochures, books and other material would be available at the orientation building. Photo exhibits and activity boards would display daily, weekly, and special events and visitor opportunities available at other locations. With more visitors to Grandview, programs such as nature hikes, campfire programs, cultural history talks and walks, and the New River Neighbor Program would need to be expanded. Wayside exhibits and bulletin boards could be used at the overlooks and in high traffic areas to orient visitors, identify facilities, and inform visitors as to activity schedules, emergency procedures, rules and regulations, and safety concerns.

Circulation/Parking

The existing traffic circulation system would remain. Parking spaces for 743 cars and two buses are provided for under this alternative. A complete breakdown of parking spaces by area can be found in the "Environmental Consequences" section. This should prove adequate through the initial development and early operation of the center.

ALTERNATIVE 4

Concept

This concept would also provide for the construction of a cluster of buildings (possibly under one roof) that would be the cultural heritage center at Grandview from which all primary interpretation and presentation of central Appalachian culture would occur (see Cultural Heritage Center, Alternative 4 map). More opportunities would be available at the site for visitors than would be available in alternative 3. Management of the center would hire the staff necessary to implement center programs and activities, including an executive director, folklife specialist, community resources specialist, research specialist, programs and technical assistant, a communication specialist, a business manager, a secretary, and a clerk-typist (as recommended in the American Folklife Study).

Facilities

The roof on Cliffside amphitheater, the relocation or removal of the 1,200-square-foot superintendent's residence, the removal of the modular housing unit, the hazardous materials survey for the new housing site, and stabilization of the building foundations in the core area would be as described in alternative 2

Visitor Use. As in alternatives 2 and 3, a loop road and new parking area would also be constructed off Turkey Spur. The visitor contact station would be removed and replaced by the family-style restaurant. As in alternative 3, a cluster of buildings would be constructed to house orientation, restrooms, an interpretation/information desk, administration, craft sales, lobby, gallery, and a research office. In addition, the entry at the Cliffside amphitheater would be demolished, existing seating would be removed and replaced, new seating would be regraded and terraced, the stage would be refurbished, and a small stage would be constructed behind the theater. A fast-food service and a small indoor theater space would be included. Also a cluster of small, rustic cottages and lodges would be constructed near the pond to provide facilities for center-sponsored activities, including artisan housing, workshops, and conferences (see Rustic Cottages and Lodges map). In addition to the proposed community hall in Festival meadow described under alternative 3, alternative 4 would include a craft center/pavilion. A nature center, described below under NPS interpretation, would also be constructed on the west side of Festival meadow to provide office and programming space for interpretive rangers. All facilities would be accessible to people with disabilities. Other sites within New River Gorge would be considered for cultural heritage center activities.

Park Operations. As in alternatives 2 and 3, new ranger, fire protection, and law enforcement facilities, a new sewage treatment facility, a new park operations center, maintenance shop, and one staff housing unit would be constructed adjacent to picnic area 3.

NPS Interpretation

Under this alternative NPS interpretation would be the same as described in alternative 3. In addition, the proximity of the cultural heritage center facilities and forested trails, rock outcroppings, and view of the gorge would provide a unique opportunity for a nature center. This nature center would provide opportunities to educate visitors about the relationship of natural and cultural forces in the gorge. Environmental education could be a cooperative endeavor by the center and the park interpretive staff.

Circulation/Parking

There are two options available for traffic circulation in this alternative: (1) retaining the existing circulation pattern or (2) opening the abandoned section of road between Festival meadow and the pond area (the second option is shown on Cultural Heritage Center, Alternative 4 map). A final determination regarding the use of the abandoned road and the section of road between the entry and the amphitheater for either pedestrian/emergency access or vehicular through traffic would be made in the later design phase of the project.

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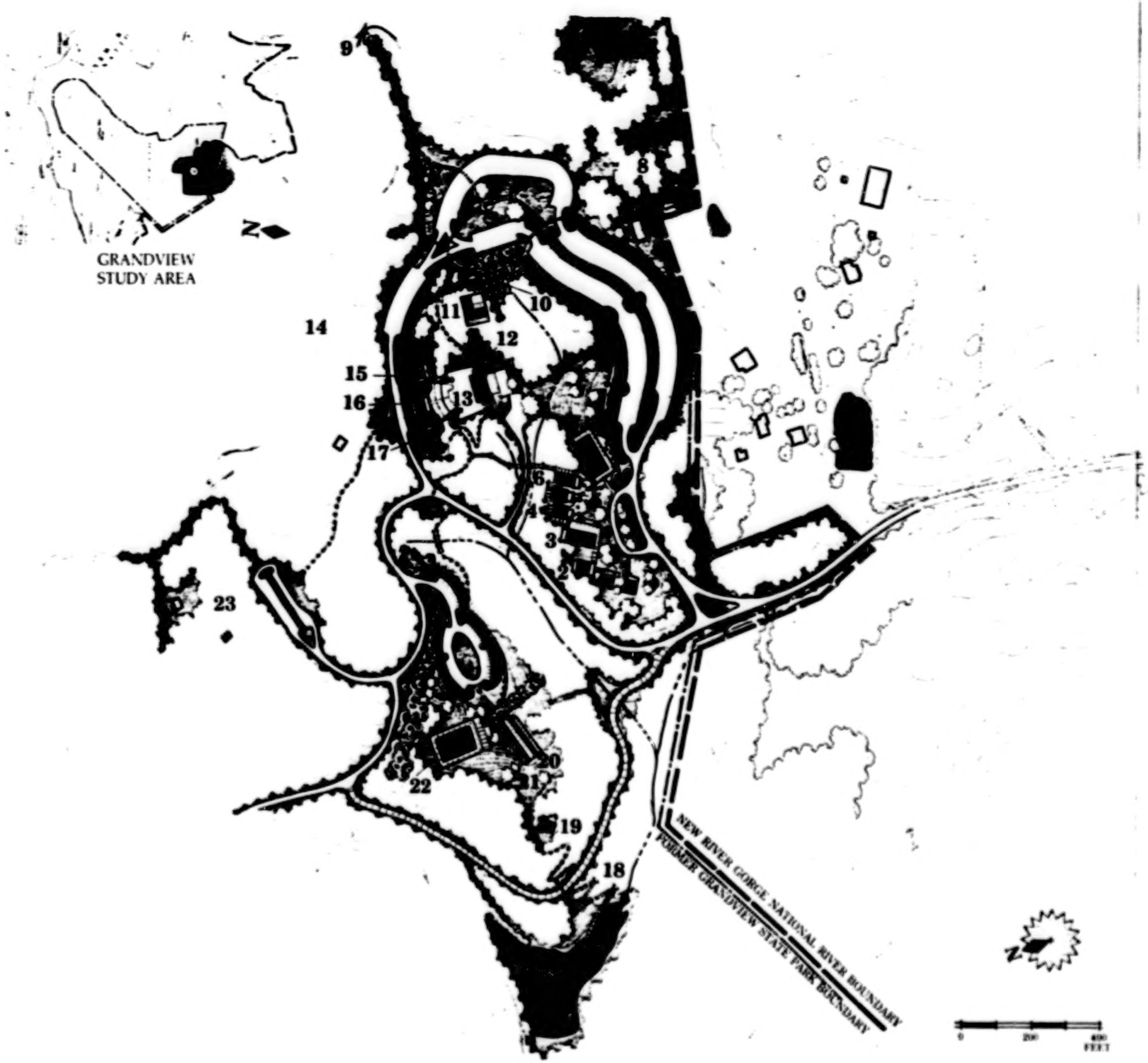
GRANDVIEW
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NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER BOUNDARY
FORMER GRANDVIEW STATE PARK BOUNDARY
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ROAD/PARKING
UNPAVED ROAD
PATH/TRAIL
POND/RIVER/STREAM
FOREST COVER
PARTIAL COVERING
CLEARING
EVERGREEN PLANTING
RHODODENDRON
RUSTIC BRIDGE
OPEN-AIR PAVILION
NATIVE FLAGSTONE

1 RESEARCH FACILITY/ARCHIVE **(PROPOSED)**
2 ADMINISTRATION **(PROPOSED)**
3 VISITOR ORIENTATION/
GALLERY/SALES **(PROPOSED)**
4 HERITAGE FOODS **(PROPOSED)**
5 MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING **(PROPOSED)**
6 RESTROOM **(PROPOSED)**
7 INDOOR THEATER **(PROPOSED)**
8 RECREATION AREA
9 MAIN OVERLOOK
10 ORCHARD **(PROPOSED)**
11 RESTAURANT **(PROPOSED)**
12 OUTDOOR STAGE **(PROPOSED)**
13 CLIFFSIDE AMPHITHEATER
14 TRAIL
15 RESTROOM **(PROPOSED)**
16 SALES **(PROPOSED)**
17 ENTRY/TICKET SALES **(PROPOSED)**
18 BOARDWALK **(PROPOSED)**
19 NATURE CENTER **(PROPOSED)**
20 CRAFT CENTER **(PROPOSED)**
21 FESTIVAL MEADOW **(PROPOSED)**
22 DANCE HALL/COMMUNITY HALL **(PROPOSED)**
23 PICNIC AREA 1

CULTURAL
HERITAGE CENTER
ALTERNATIVE 4
GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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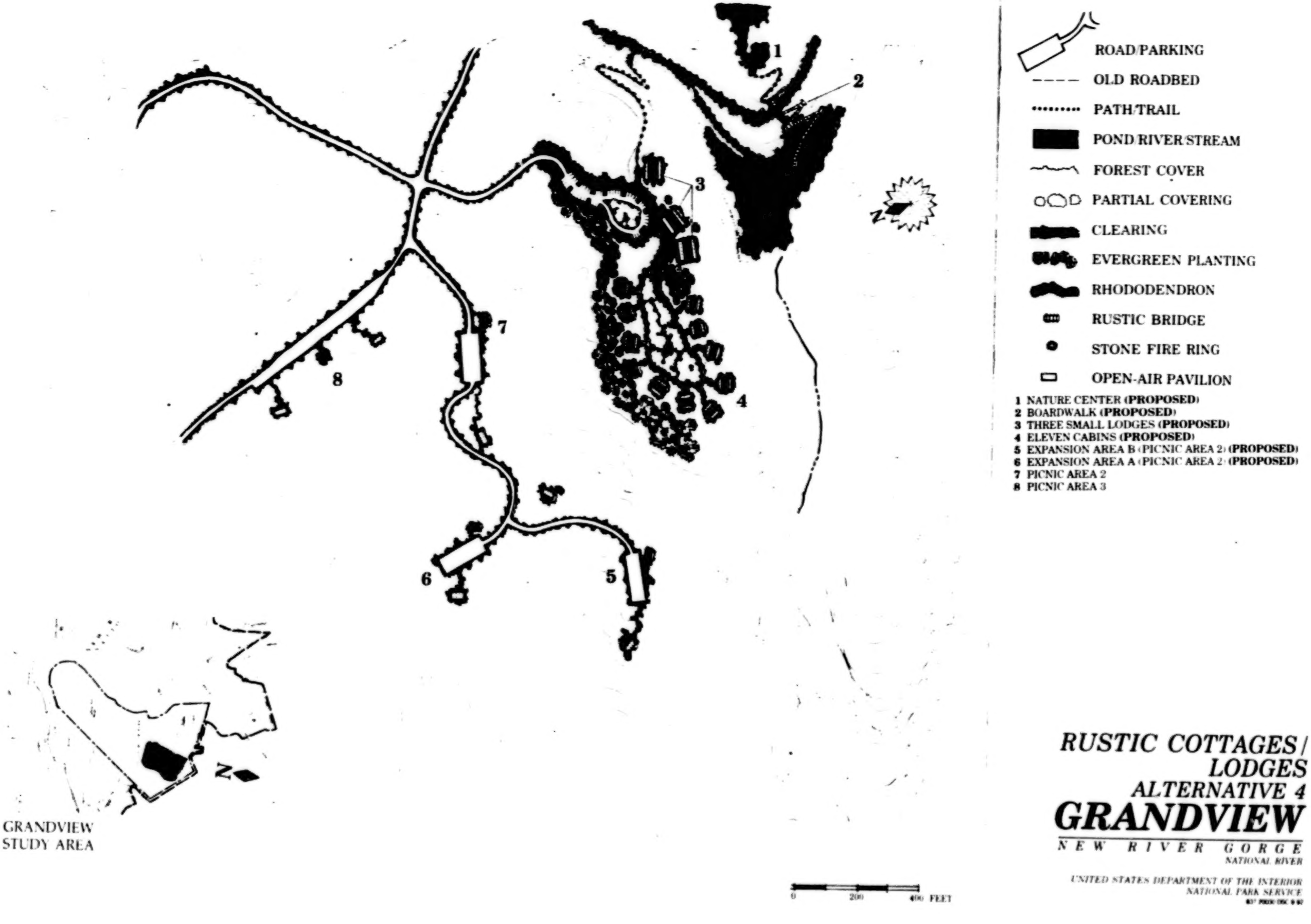

RUSTIC COTTAGES/ LODGES
ALTERNATIVE 4
GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

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The scope of facility development proposed and anticipated length of a visitor's stay would require additional parking beyond the projected space for 743 cars and seven buses provided for under this alternative. Phased development of the center would allow for exploration of a shuttle service from an outside location into Grandview and/or development of concessions parking and shuttle service. A complete breakdown of parking spaces by area can be found in the "Environmental Consequences" section.

ALTERNATIVE 5

Concept

In this alternative Grandview would become a central location to organize and support cultural activities that would occur both at Grandview as well as at other locations throughout the park. As described in alternative 4, management of the center would hire the staff necessary to implement center programs and activities, including an executive director, folklife specialist, community resources specialist, research specialist, programs and technical assistant, a communications specialist, a business manager, a secretary, and a clerk-typist as recommended in the American Folklife study(see Cultural Heritage Center, Alternative 5 map).

Facilities

The roof on the Cliffside amphitheater, the removal/relocation of the 1,200-square-foot superintendent's residence, the removal of the modular housing unit, the hazardous materials survey for the new housing site, and interpretation of the building foundations behind the current visitor contact station would be as described under alternative 2.

Visitor Use. As outlined in alternative 4, a cluster of buildings (possibly under one roof) would house park orientation, restrooms, a lobby, an interpretation/information desk, research functions, administration, sales, a gallery, and food service, although in a much different configuration than in alternative 4. A loop road and a new parking area would be constructed off Turkey Spur. Use of a theater space would be pursued outside Grandview. The amphitheater would also be partially remodeled; a porch would be added and excavation work would be done. The visitor contact station would be removed and the area would be revegetated. As in alternatives 3 and 4, the community hall and environmental education center (with office space for interpreters) would be located in the Festival meadow. All facilities would be accessible to people with disabilities.

Park Operations. The new protection ranger, fire protection and law enforcement facilities, a new sewage treatment facility, a new park operations center, maintenance shop, and one staff housing unit adjacent to picnic area 3 would be the same as described under alternative 2.

NPS Interpretation

Under this alternative NPS interpretation would be the same as described under alternative 3. In addition, the proximity of the cultural heritage center facilities, forested trails, rock outcroppings, and view of the gorge would provide a unique opportunity for a nature center. This nature center would provide opportunities to educate visitors about the relationship of natural and cultural forces in the gorge. Environmental education is an area in which the center and the park interpretive staff could work closely.

Circulation/Parking

The circulation pattern would change under this alternative (see Cultural Heritage Center, Alternative 5 map). The scope of facility development proposed, anticipated length of a visitor's stay, and change in the circulation pattern would require additional parking beyond the projected parking for 598 cars and nine buses provided for under this alternative are in place when the center opens. Phased development of the center would allow for exploration of a shuttle service from an outside location into Grandview and/or development of concessions parking and shuttle service. A complete breakdown of parking spaces by area can be found in the "Environmental Consequences" section.

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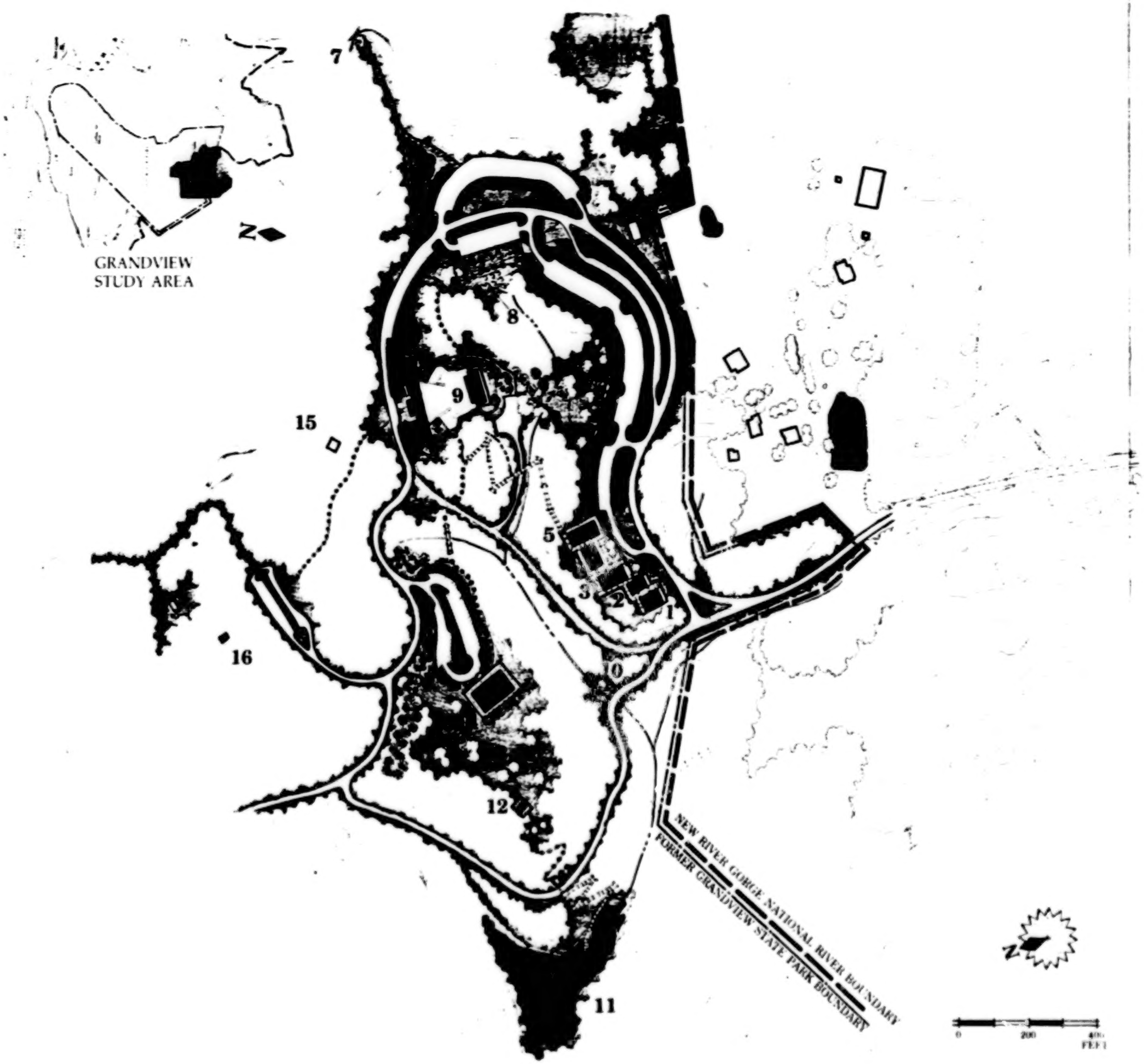
GRANDVIEW
STUDY AREA
N
7
8
9
15
16
5
3
2
1
0
12
11
NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER BOUNDARY
FORMER GRANDVIEW STATE PARK BOUNDARY
N
0
200
400
FEET

ROAD/PARKING
===== UNPAVED ROAD
········ PATH/TRAIL
▬ POND/RIVER/STREAM
FOREST COVER
PARTIAL COVERING
▬ CLEARING
EVERGREEN PLANTING
▬ RHODODENDRON
▥ RUSTIC BRIDGE
▭ OPEN-AIR PAVILION
☐ NATIVE FLAGSTONE

1 RESEARCH FACILITY **(PROPOSED)**
2 ADMINISTRATION **(PROPOSED)**
3 CRAFTS/SALES/GALLERY **(PROPOSED)**
4 ORIENTATION **(PROPOSED)**
5 HERITAGE FOODS **(PROPOSED)**
6 RECREATION AREA
7 MAIN OVERLOOK
8 ORCHARD **(PROPOSED)**
9 CLIFFSIDE AMPHITHEATER
10 SPECIAL EVENTS LANES **(PROPOSED)**
(ROAD CLOSED)
11 BOARDWALK **(PROPOSED)**
12 NATURE CENTER **(PROPOSED)**
13 FESTIVAL MEADOW **(PROPOSED)**
14 COMMUNITY HALL **(PROPOSED)**
15 TRAILS **(PROPOSED)**
16 PICNIC AREA 1

CULTURAL
HERITAGE CENTER
ALTERNATIVE 5
GRANDVIEW

NEW RIVER GORGE
NATIONAL RIVER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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TABLE 3: SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

	Alternative 1	**Alternative 2**	**Alternative 3**	**Alternative 4**	**Alternative 5**
Concept	Use existing NPS staff to implement program elements from the American Folklife study.	Upgrade and use existing facilities. Hire additional NPS staff to implement cultural resource program.	Construct minimal structural development to house cultural center at Grandview. Hire non-NPS staff member to implement programs.	Construct larger cluster of buildings for cultural center. Hire larger non-NPS staff hired to run center programs. More opportunities for visitors onsite than alternative 3.	Construct large center facility to support on-site and off-site programs. Staffing same as alternative 4.
Facilities • Visitor Use and Park Operations	No new facilities.	Construct new ranger/protection facilities. Provide new sewage treatment plant, park operations center, and one staff house. Replace modular contact station, build new loop road and parking at Turkey Spur.	Construct dance hall/kitchen in Festival meadow; other facilities the same as alternative 2.	Construct small cabins and lodge near pond area for center activities; other facilities the same as alternative 2.	Construct facilities similar to alternative 4 with different design scheme; other facilities the same as alternative 2.
• Cliffside Amphitheater		Build roof over amphitheater.	Build cluster of buildings next to existing amphitheater for cultural center.	Facilities near amphitheater similar to alternative 3, but expanded to include more food service and programs.	Remodel Cliffside amphitheater.
• Housing		Remove/replace superintendent's house and modular house.			
NPS Interpretation	NPS interpretive activities continued.	Expand interpretive programs, walks, and brochures. Create photo/activity boards in high traffic areas. Expand New River Neighbors Program.	Same as alternative 2.	Same as alternative 2; potential nature center would be developed.	Same as alternatives 2 and 4.
Circulation/ Parking	Existing parking for 645 cars adequate.	Expand parking to accommodate 657 cars and 2 buses.	Expand parking to accommodate 743 cars and 2 buses. Same traffic and parking patterns. Phased development allows for future remote shuttle service/concessions shuttle to Grandview.	Expand parking to accommodate 784 cars and 7 buses. Optional design of opening abandoned road section near Festival meadow or retaining existing system. Explore shuttle service.	Change circulation pattern. Change parking to accommodate 598 cars and 9 buses. Explore shuttle service.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Topic	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Cultural Resources	Archeological sites at new park operations area could be disturbed. The core area might require additional archeological testing for new construction area if cultural landscape assessment determines Grandview is cultural landscape; any new construction would impact landscape.	Same as alternative 2.	Same as alternatives 2 and 3; increased visitor use and activities related to new cottages and lodges would cause direct and indirect impacts to prehistoric material found over much of the area.	Same as alternatives 2 and 3
Natural Resources • Vegetation/Soils	4 acres of undisturbed soil and vegetation would be lost from development. No steep slopes would be altered. No significant vegetation species impacted.	5 acres of undisturbed soil and vegetation would be lost from development. No significant loss of native vegetation.	12 acres of undisturbed soil and vegetation would be lost, the most of all the alternatives. Largest disturbance would be in mixed deciduous forest. Disturbance substantial but not significant.	8 acres of undisturbed soil and vegetation would be lost Second highest impacts of alternatives, but no significant losses.
• Water Quality	No significant impacts. Short-term erosion impacts from construction activities. Impacts to water quality from 50,000 gpd wastewater treatment facility .	Same as alt. 2. Restoration of seep patterns near amphitheater would improve drainage.	Same as alt. 2. Special buffers needed near pond area for new cabins.	Same as alt. 2. Some minor additional development for boardwalk in pond.
• Wetlands	None	None	None	Boardwalk construction might have minor impacts on wetlands near pond.
• Floodplains	None	None	None	None
• Threatened or Endangered Species	None	None	None	None
Socioeconomic Environment	No significant impacts would occur to visitor use; positive long-term impacts for circulation and parking at would occur at Turkey Spur.	Increased impacts to traffic flow on route 9 and onsite parking would occur from increased visitation; additional parking would be provided to mitigate impact.	Impacts to some picnic areas would occur because of increased development and crowding; visual impact would occur from new construction.	Same as alternatives 2-4.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IMPACTS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES (2-5)

Impacts on Cultural Resources

A slight increase in visitation to Grandview might increase indirect impacts to cultural as well as natural resources. Higher visitation increases erosion of cultural sites where trails cross and observant people may pick up exposed artifacts. If indirect impacts are expected from developments that specifically avoid direct impacts to a known site, mitigation through some measure of protection or excavation may be necessary. Indirect impacts of development are not easily forecast, prevented, or mitigated.

If the cultural landscape assessment (CLA) determines that Grandview is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a landscape, a careful evaluation of the possible impacts the proposed development would have on the historic designed landscape under alternatives 2-5 would be required. While it would not prohibit development, a landscape designation could result in site design modifications.

Neither the picnic shelter at picnic area 1 nor the Canyon Rim trail benches (which may be listed on the List of Classified Structures and be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) would be affected by the development proposed under any alternative, including the no-action alternative.

Impacts to the more intangible cultural resources at Grandview, such as the landscape and visitor experience and use, would be similar under all the alternatives. Each alternative, including alternative 1, anticipates an increase in visitation to the site. As visitation increased, experiences such as the landscape, picnicking, ballfields, and visiting the overlooks would change. More visitors would, by default, mean more congestion (both vehicular and pedestrian), activity, and fewer opportunities to enjoy areas that once encouraged solitude.

Impacts on Natural Resources

The surveys for hazardous materials at the new housing site near picnic area 3, and cleanup if required, would ensure protection of natural resources and human populations.

Concentrating use patterns around the existing high use areas such as the amphitheater and picnic sites would greatly reduce impacts from development at the Grandview site. Increased use at Turkey Spur would be accommodated more efficiently with the proposed parking and circulation preventing extreme crowding on the narrow road corridor and avoiding damage to the area from increased overflow parking along that section.

Natural resource management consistent with NPS policies and guidelines would continue to guide management of the site in response to visitor use impacts and natural change.

All action alternatives would see increased visitor use resulting in higher potential for soil compaction, erosion, and subsequent effects on vegetative cover, including potential root damage, tree loss, and exposure of bare ground. The lowest impacts would be those occurring under alternatives 1 and 2.

Minor, short-term increases in sedimentation to the pond and area streams could occur from construction activities but would be managed by appropriate erosion control measures such as the use of hay bales and silt fencing along drainages.

Site development and programs would lead to more visitors and therefore increased traffic, noise, and air pollution along Route 9 and minor traffic jams and access difficulties for adjacent residents on busy days and weekends. Proper signs, patrols, and communication with nearby residents would reduce impacts on busy days.

Upgrading and maintenance activities along the administrative road leading from picnic area 3 to the New River Gorge would have some minor, short-term impacts, including soil erosion, some vegetation removal, and other minor road and drainage improvements as needed. No public traffic would be allowed to use this access.

Short-term positive effects for wildlife would include new clearings, which would add to a mixture of forest and open fields for deer to forage in. Short-term negative impacts would include increased noise and invasion of exotic plant species into natural habitat areas, especially in undisturbed areas such as the loop area at Turkey Spur and the new proposed park operations center. Long-term impacts would include habitat fragmentation and increased encroachment on habitat areas from more human use and development onsite, especially in previously undeveloped areas. The high visitor-use activity periods could impact deer populations by displacement into forest-covered areas, causing potential crowding and competition for browse in adjacent forests.

No federal or state listed rare, threatened, or endangered species would be affected, lost, or compromised by any alternative. Monitoring the cliff areas from the Tunnel trail and main overlooks to the eastern downhill sides of Turkey Spur would protect the pristine and diverse habitats found in this area. If increased human use impacts develop in these areas, monitoring would also help evaluate management's efforts to mitigate these impacts.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

As visitation increased in the Beckley region, regional traffic and transportation might be affected. This change would have positive economic impacts but could also negatively affect public services, roads, and streets as well as generate increased development requiring additional public expenditures for sewer, utilities, and transportation.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION

Summary

Any increases in visitation could cause minor impacts to cultural and natural resources and cause some change in the visitor experience. Otherwise, this alternative has the least impact on the area of any of the proposed alternatives.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

No major direct impacts are expected to affect cultural or archeological sites, other than from general maintenance and other park generated improvements. The threat of indirect impacts would increase at archeological sites where greater visitation would cause accelerated compaction and erosion.

Impacts on Natural Resources

There would be no significant impacts on natural resources in this alternative. Alternative 1 would have the least impacts from new development onsite of any of the alternatives. However, management of the increasing visitor use impacts onsite, such as erosion, trail degradation, soil compaction, vegetation loss at the picnic grounds, and overcrowding on weekends and busy holidays, would not be improved except for normal maintenance operations. This alternative would not create any significant loss of vegetation cover, reduce wildlife habitat, or degrade water quality.

Impacts on Vegetation and Soils. Maintaining the site in a condition and appearance that is similar to existing conditions would allow natural successional changes. Vegetation would not be cleared and removed from areas at the site except for maintenance and hazardous tree removal. This would have positive impacts by increasing natural diversity and sustained growth of existing vegetation. Soil quality would be maintained with little to no erosion loss.

Expected increased visitor use of the site would increase impacts on vegetation at picnic areas and on hiking trails. Increased compaction and erosion would occur along the Castle Rock trail and at overlooks on Canyon Rim trail without adequate funding to harden surfaces, control erosion, and repair drainage systems.

Impacts on Wildlife. No additional impacts to wildlife would occur. Constant maintenance and monitoring of areas along the rim trails would ensure that increased visitor use was not resulting in negative impacts on the rare green Salamander found in these areas or harassment of any peregrine falcons using the cliff areas for roosting, hunting, and potential nesting sites. Deer would still use the open areas and fringe habitat along forest clearings. Other wildlife habitat would be left in its natural condition without additional loss. No significant loss of wildlife habitat would occur.

Impacts on Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species. No impacts would occur to any rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Impacts on Air and Water Quality. There would be further potential for polluting stream courses and groundwater because the continuing use of existing septic systems would not be adequate to handle wastewater flows onsite.

Monitoring and enforcement activities on trails around streams or near the pond would prevent degradation of water quality. All headwater streams flowing to the New River would not be affected or disturbed. No additional impacts on air quality would be anticipated beyond the localized impacts of heavy vehicle use on weekend and holiday traffic.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

The visitor experience and use would remain essentially the same under this alternative, with the exception of anticipated incremental visitation increases because of higher yearly visitation to New River Gorge. Family reunion activity and group or family picnic sites would remain, Cliffside amphitheater would continue performances without upgrading the facilities, and hiking and playfield areas would remain the same, with periodic maintenance and upgrading to protect resources and facilities.

No impact would occur on current traffic and circulation patterns on the site. The maintenance and ranger offices that are visible from high visitor use areas would continue in their current locations.

Cumulative Impacts

If current trends continued over the next 10 to 15 years, visitation at Grandview would increase. This increase could result in cumulative impacts to natural resources and changes in the visitor experience.

The only public access into Grandview is via Route 9. Under county jurisdiction, Route 9 is a two-lane road with homes along either side of its 5-mile length from Interstate 64 to Grandview. Conforming to the dips and sways of the terrain, the road has several places with limited or no sight distance, creating safety concerns. The increased numbers of cars, trucks, and tour buses would place more stress on the road surface, making additional repairs/improvements necessary.

The cumulative impacts of the increased traffic congestion and noise on the homeowners along Route 9 cannot be determined at this time.

Increased visitation would cause more traffic within Grandview. The entire road system and parking areas at Grandview are nearing the end of their expected life span. Over the next 10 to 15 years those features would need to be replaced or improved if funding becomes available.

The cumulative impacts on the visitor experience caused by road construction would be positive as well as negative. Understanding the reasons for the inconvenience would ameliorate most negative experiences for visitors. Repeat visitors would become accustomed to the construction and would also benefit from the improved road system.

Because the existing transportation system and travel methods would be perpetuated, impacts associated with the original development of the roadway (such as habitat loss and fragmentation and modification of wildlife use and movement) would continue. There are few, new impacts foreseen; however, vehicle-wildlife accidents could increase. The potential vehicle-wildlife accident rate would not be expected to affect the populations of most species, but it could result in the death of some individuals.

People visiting the gorge would cause a decrease in the habitat suitability for species intolerant of disturbance. Intolerant species would continue to avoid the sites when people are present.

When parking areas at the main overlook and the picnic areas are in heavy use, minor decreases in air quality would be caused by auto emissions. Adverse impacts would be greatest during periods of high visitation, but the effects on air quality from these sources should not be significant. The total amount of emissions cannot be determined at this time.

Increased visitation would place additional demands on the existing wastewater system. The system is rapidly proving inadequate for the amount of wastewater produced onsite. Over the next 10 to 15 years the system would need to be replaced or improved if funding becomes available. Not replacing or improving the system would increase the potential for polluting stream courses and groundwater. Although it would be difficult to exactly determine the cumulative impact, not replacing the wastewater system would result in long-term effects to the stream courses and groundwater, the visitor experience, and air pollution.

As a result of increased visitation and traffic, the visitor experience would change because of traffic and visitor congestion and the resulting noise from the rise in visitation as well the potential for pollution from the wastewater system.

It is difficult to anticipate the degree of direct or indirect socioeconomic impacts to the surrounding region as a result of this alternative. While visitation to Grandview is projected to increase, there is little information available to ascertain whether the additional visitors would be coming from the surrounding counties or from the region at large. Local visitors, for example, do not require overnight accommodations but might purchase gas and food. It is possible to say, however, that there should be a long-term impact to the local and perhaps regional economy.

Each of the alternatives proposes implementation of the programming element recommended by the American Folklife Study. The total socioeconomic impact of this action cannot be determined at this time.

While difficult to measure, increased visitation would have cumulative impacts on archeological resources through accelerated compaction and erosion.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2

Summary

Except for no action, alternative 2 has the least amount of impact from new construction at Grandview. Most impacts related to the new park operations center, ranger facilities, staff residence, and the Turkey Spur parking area described for alternative 2 below are common actions and impacts in alternatives 3, 4, and 5 as well.

Alternative 2 would impact up to 6 acres of undisturbed area and 1.5 acres of previously disturbed areas at Grandview. Because of careful site planning, mitigation built into design (such as concentrating development on previously disturbed areas) and avoidance of identified sensitive natural zones, additional proposed development would not have significant impacts. The impacts under this alternative would include loss of approximately 4 acres of undisturbed hardwood forest areas, minor impacts from displacement and disturbance of .5 to 1 acre of wildlife habitat, and potential impacts on streams from erosion and sedimentation. There would be an addition of up to 50,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater discharged into a small creek that is one of the headwater streams flowing into the New River. Approximately 8% of the total Grandview environment would be affected.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

New Park Operations Center. Two prehistoric and one historic site have been identified in the development zone where the new park operations center and housing unit would be constructed. The proposed area for the staff residence, immediately south of the dirt road where the park dump is currently located, is also the location of a 19th century site and prehistoric site. Both would require further investigation.

On the level ridge immediately north of the road is another prehistoric site that would also require additional testing if development is proposed over or very near it. Because the site is small and there is enough available land elsewhere, the site could be avoided entirely. Other locations with prehistoric materials were found along this ridge but none are considered potentially significant, and testing in response to development would not be necessary. The best location to develop the park operations center is on the level area further to the northwest where no evidence of archeological sites was found.

Indirect impacts are expected from development of the park operations center but are not likely to be caused by the public as much as park activities. Standard operating procedures in park operations areas would be the primary threat to sites.

Turkey Spur. Archeological testing found isolated artifacts but no sites. This area has virtually no potential for impacts to archeological resources, and no further testing has been recommended by the Eastern Applied Archeology Center.

Core Area. Most development within this area would pose no threat to cultural resources. Construction of a new visitor contact station might require additional archeological testing.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Impacts on Vegetation and Soils. Up to 4 acres of oak-hickory associated hardwoods near picnic area 2 along the existing administrative access road would be eliminated for the proposed maintenance, sewage treatment, and park housing improvements. This would include development of an access road, which would eliminate five to 10 hemlock and white pine trees on the proposed site at the new entrance road off the existing administrative road. There are fewer hemlock species on the proposed construction site and avoiding loss of these species and or revegetation should mitigate this loss to the fullest extent possible to avoid additional impacts from loss of diversity in Grandview. If possible, tree spading the existing smaller trees would be preferable to cutting and removal. By integrating this conifer stand into the design,additional visual screening from the adjacent picnic grounds would be provided.

The 1 1/2-acre housing area includes a small area of white pine and hardwoods, sumac, and nonnative grass species. Keeping construction in disturbed areas as much as possible would avoid eliminating trees and native vegetation.

The proposed park operations center, ranger station, and sewage facility would be constructed in a dry, level, dense thicket of secondary hardwoods. Strict clearing limits around the proposed facilities would minimize destruction and fit this new facility area into the forest environment. No state or federal rare, threatened, or endangered plant species would be affected by this development.

Removing hardwoods at the proposed administrative facility site would not significantly reduce hardwood species within the construction area. Proposed construction at the administrative facility site would reduce a moderately homogeneous oak-hickory woodland by creating breaks in the canopy, causing reduced shading, increased soil temperatures, and a reduced understory of plant species. This site is between two disturbed landscape features — a powerline right-of-way and the administrative road from picnic area 2 to the river gorge. This would add negligible cumulative impacts for the oak-hickory hardwoods because the area would still contain large areas of undisturbed stands that maintain natural conditions through shade, stable soils, and protected tree roots.

The proposed site for the new park operations/ranger facilities does not contain any other unusual or highly diverse plant community associations. The utility connections would require up to 9,000 linear feet of trenching for electric, water, and sewer lines. This proposed work would eliminate aboveground powerlines on the park, allowing the existing corridor to revegetate naturally. To reduce impacts from trenching, all utilities would be buried in one trench along the existing disturbed road corridor as much as possible.

This alternative proposes a 1 1/2-acre parking lot and turnaround area in the Turkey Spur overlook area to provide for more parking and to eliminate parking use directly on the scenic resources. This action would eliminate primarily hardwood forest species such as large maples, tulip poplars, red oaks, hickory, and beech. Some white pines and hemlocks could also be lost. Canopy cover would be lost, increasing light and edge areas in what is now a medium to heavy closed canopy area. Increased sunlight, soil temperatures, and compaction would change species composition in and around the developed areas, create the potential for trees being blown over by the wind (wind-throw). Removal of 1.5 acres of vegetation would increase runoff potential into nearby drainages. These impacts would be limited to small construction clearing zones and minor in scope in relation to the amount of buffered areas and undisturbed vegetation remaining on the entire site.

Overall, significant loss of species diversity would be eliminated by careful selection of each tree cut and establishing clearing and grubbing limits that respect the natural terrain, reduce loss of diverse flora in the development area, and maintain natural vegetative cover in all areas possible.

Soil loss would be minimized, and no highly erodible areas or steep slopes would be manipulated, altered, or developed. Soil erosion and loss would be controlled with appropriate erosion control devices. All topsoil removed, including forest duff and litter, would be saved and stockpiled for later reapplication onsite during restoration. Piles would be kept dry and stabilized to reduce loss. Brush piles, logs, and other natural debris can be used as a brush barrier to reduce erosion and runoff during rains. Critical soil loss areas, such as the northeast edge of the proposed park operations facility and the southwest edge of the proposed housing site, would need special erosion control because of their proximity to steeper slopes and drainages.

Impacts on Wildlife. Small mammals and amphibians such as rodents, moles, shrews, salamanders, and squirrels would be displaced in the areas proposed for development. Wildlife habitat losses would be minimized by retaining existing resources around and near development rather than clearing an area and attempting restoration, reducing the area disturbed, selective cutting rather than broad-scale clearing, maintaining native vegetation cover near development, and constructing only small-scale buildings and parking facilities. In areas that would be cleared for pavement or structures, displacement would have the most significant effect on small understory mammal and amphibian species. However, no critical habitat would be eliminated; the oak-hickory habitat and associated plant communities in these areas are very common in the park. Undisturbed habitat areas near development would maintain small corridors for wildlife. Larger animals such as fox, deer, bobcat, and bear would not be significantly affected by the proposed development overall, and habitat loss for these species would not be significant because the areas do not have a large population of these species. Increased human activity would have minor effects on species that require large buffers between themselves and developed areas, changing their habitat/home range use areas to adjacent undisturbed habitat areas. These would be more localized impacts. Deer populations would not be significantly affected and might benefit from new clearings and forest opening. Increased traffic, especially during the evening, would increase the potential for automobile road kills. No significant loss of habitat for songbirds would occur at Grandview; however, some species would be temporarily displaced during construction.

Impacts on Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species. No state or federal rare, threatened, or endangered flora or fauna species would be affected by this alternative. No state or federal species of concern were found in any potential development zones at Grandview. The Park Service contracted Marshall University to survey the area for sensitive species in proposed development zones and in areas where sensitive species are suspected. The survey confirmed that although there are state rare species found at Grandview, all species were in previously identified "sensitive zones" and were not in any proposed development zone. No impacts from proposed actions would affect these species; however, continued monitoring is recommended.

At least one or possibly two federally listed peregrine falcons were observed at Grandview flying off the Main and Turkey Spur overlooks. One potential nesting site was monitored for use and inhabitation but was not confirmed or found to be a nesting site. The cliff areas at Grandview offer the best potential habitat areas for peregrine and are in the sensitive resource zones not proposed for new development. These would continue to be natural resource zone management areas that would maintain diverse habitats and resources. These areas would have no management change from the present and would be buffered from additional development areas.

Impacts on Air and Water Quality. No significant air quality impacts would occur at Grandview in this alternative. Increased automobile emissions would be similar to no action and would increase as normal increases in visitation occur. Short-term air quality impacts would occur during construction periods with the use of heavy construction equipment and the creation of fugitive dust from clearing. These would be minor short-term increases.

Short-term water quality impacts would potentially occur from construction activity due to erosion and sedimentation from exposed soil in cleared areas. Clearing and strict erosion control plans consistent with state and federal requirements as well as the project's sustainable development guidelines would be implemented to reduce impact. Because development does not occur within sensitive areas for streams or the pond onsite in this alternative, and buffers are left around development, no major impacts from increased sedimentation would be anticipated. Small crossings of drainage areas would be culverted and protected from increased alteration or increased erosion due to road development.

The proposed wastewater treatment facility would be rated at 50,000 gallons per day. It would be a secondary treatment facility and would discharge into the unnamed tributary flowing into New River Gorge from the area near the proposed facility. Impacts from this facility to water quality on the stream include additions of nutrients, decreased dissolved oxygen with accompanying biochemical oxygen demand, and small amounts of trace organics and heavy metals associated with secondary treatment discharge. All of these additions would be within acceptable water quality limits and would not significantly degrade water quality in New River Gorge or in the receiving stream. A long flow area of over 2 miles of stream from the proposed site to the New River would act as an additional aeration and buffering zone before hitting the New River. The proposed receiving stream does not supply any existing domestic or industrial water users. In addition, this facility would require permits from the state of West Virginia and the EPA and would only be approved upon successful testing and demonstration of its ability to maintain water quality in the host tributary and in the New River itself. As noted in the "Affected Environment" section, the New River downstream at Piney Creek is experiencing higher than normal readings of fecal coliform and other water quality problems. Because of the secondary treatment technology used in this facility, no cumulative impacts to water quality in the New River would be added by this proposed treatment facility due to the high quality of treatment to discharge waters from the plant.

Improved water quality would be a positive impact from the addition of this facility by eliminating the older septic tanks currently scattered throughout Grandview. These tanks require frequent and increasingly costly maintenance and repair, including ground disturbance to dig them up, pumping, and other incidental maintenance. These tanks and septic fields are found underneath visitor use areas and could eventually contribute to groundwater pollution. Existing groundwater contamination from the tanks has not been verified, but Boggs noted that nearby farm ponds were affected years ago when one tank was built at picnic area 1 (Personal comm., Boggs 1991). Many areas onsite also have small seeps and springs that indicate shallow depths to groundwater that could continue to be degraded with increased wastewater demands at Grandview.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

Current visitation patterns and uses would remain unaffected under alternative 2, except for a major visitor use change at the Turkey Spur overlook. This area would become more of a hiking destination area after the parking area is built.

Existing picnic areas and the amphitheater would be unchanged. Visitor hiking and playfield areas would also remain.

Traffic and congestion on busy days would be improved at Turkey Spur as increased capacity would reduce conflicts within the current smaller parking area. Increased hiking would create a quieter and more secluded visitor experience at the overlook area.

No additional parking or circulation changes would occur onsite, with the exception of added spaces at the Turkey Spur parking area and the small access road to the proposed park operations and ranger facility. This road would provide an increase in administrative traffic, including heavy equipment and emergency vehicles entering in and out of the existing picnic area with an estimated increase of 30+ trips per day along the small roadway leading through the existing parking lot.

Cumulative Impacts

If the cultural landscape assessment that is currently underway determines that Grandview is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a designed historic landscape, the new facility development purposed under all the action alternatives would have a negative cumulative impact on the landscape. As outlined in alternative 1, increased visitation would have a cumulative effect on the archeological resources through accelerated compaction and erosion.

A total of 6 acres of previously undisturbed soils and vegetation would be lost to new development under this alternative. Approximately 1.5 acres of previously disturbed soils would be impacted. No steep slopes or significant vegetation species would be affected.

As described under alternative 1, the total socioeconomic impact of the implementation of the programming element cannot be determined at this time.

Increased visitation would have similar impacts to those discussed under alternative 1. Visitor use and experience would remain basically the same as outlined under alternative 1.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 3

Summary

This alternative would include a small increase in site development from alternative 2 with an increase of approximately 0.5 acres of new development in undisturbed forested areas in addition to the proposed park operations/ranger facilities for a total of 5 acres. No previously undisturbed areas beyond that described in alternative 2 are impacted in this alternative as all major development is concentrated in previously disturbed landscapes onsite. No significant impacts to cultural resources, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, air and water quality, or rare, threatened, or endangered species would occur with alternative three. The largest impacts in alternative 3 are associated with increased crowding of visitors in the amphitheater area, an increase in traffic and parking demands, alteration of some site vegetation, and a reduction in open space at Grandview.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

New Park Operations Area and Turkey Spur. Archeological concerns for this development are identical to those for the new park operations and Turkey Spur areas in alternative 2.

Core Area. Most development within this area would pose no threat to cultural resources. One area of isolated artifacts was found within this area but is not significant and requires no further consideration. Preserving the historic Ingham house foundation would not likely require prior archeological investigations but an archeological monitor may be required during the process of foundation stabilization and restoration of the orchard. Construction of new buildings within the bowl area may require additional archeological testing.

A prehistoric site was also found in this area. This would require additional archeological investigations because the trail development would directly impact the site, and increasing public activity in the area would result in greater indirect impacts.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Impacts on Vegetation and Soils. No significant vegetation loss would occur in this alternative as most development would occur in existing developed zones. The largest impacts to vegetation communities are associated with new development described previously in alternative 2 for the proposed park operations and ranger facility and Turkey Spur parking. No primary, undisturbed, or restored areas would be additionally disturbed. Most new construction for the additional 86 parking spaces at the proposed festival meadow would be on existing constructed areas. Some mixed deciduous trees would require removal, but impacts are very minor as these trees are part of an administrative and park operations area.

New clearing would require loss of up to 3,000 square yards of new area for access and parking. Ground disturbance would remove very little native plant material as the area is primarily asphalt, gravel, and lawn area. No rare or unusual plant species would be eliminated. After removal of the buildings, some restoration and revegetation would be accomplished onsite. Revegetation would focus on native evergreen shrubs for screening and additional native tree species where possible.

In the core area surrounding the amphitheater, no significant vegetation clearing would be necessary. Some rhododendron bushes may be displaced during construction. The additional construction would be placed on piles and would not require extensive excavation and clearing of the landscape. Except for clearing and vegetation removal for new development described in alternative two, the largest vegetation impacts would occur in the existing maintenance yard and nearby field for parking and adjacent to the current theater for small buildings. No major tree stands or native vegetation in these areas would be removed. Soil loss and impact would include minor localized areas of additional compaction and pavement, however permeable asphalt is proposed for additional parking lots to mitigate runoff increases from the new pavement.

Impacts on Wildlife. No major impacts would occur for wildlife species in this alternative. For new development in areas common to alternative two, impacts are the same as those described for that proposal.

No major displacement or loss of large or high quality habitat would occur in this alternative as all new development is concentrated in predisturbed conditions. The disturbed areas do support some populations of small rodents, squirrels, salamanders, and songbirds of many kinds. Construction activities would cause relocations for species in the immediate area with no significant losses to the populations or fauna community at Grandview.

Impacts on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species. No impacts would occur in alternative three.

Impacts on Air and Water Quality. During construction, care would be taken to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacts that could occur to the small spring and associated drainage running behind the current interpretation office and downslope from the orchard. Increased parking areas could cause small increases in localized emissions of carbon monoxide and ozone. Bus parking and large events that generate high volumes of traffic would be primary producers. Idling of engines by buses should be prohibited while dropping off passengers and waiting their return while visiting Grandview.

Careful consideration during construction of the small spring and associated drainage running from behind the current interpretation office and downslope from the orchard should be considered to reduce impacts to this small wetland area. The area behind the amphitheater shows evidence of seepage and drainage problems down slope from this spring. Restoration of proper drainage and no impact to the wetland function of this small seep area would be required. Impacts to water quality from excessive wet season flow from this area during construction could cause short-term adverse water quality impacts, especially to the pond where most flow from this area drains. Proper silt curtains and culverting may be required to protect water quality during construction and post occupancy periods.

No significant water quality impacts would occur from construction activity at the proposed Festival meadow area, except during high runoff periods during rainstorms. Although a dry upland site, it is a prominent hilltop with drainages and the pond surrounding it on all sides. Proper buffering of vegetation along the rim and on steep areas would be required as well as silt curtains, haybales, and brush/log barriers as needed to avoid significant erosion from entering the high water quality areas of the pond, McCreery Hollow, and the large stream channel below the site. Some short-term degradation of water quality would be expected from this activity but could be carefully mitigated to avoid significant impact.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

Under alternative 3, parking spaces for 743 cars and two buses would be provided onsite. The largest increase would occur near the core development area at the Festival meadow site with 86 new spaces and the next largest at the proposed Turkey Spur lot for 34 cars and two buses. Theses increases would offset additional impacts to the 435 spaces in the main lot near the amphitheater and should accommodate the daily parking needs of the site. Based on NPS estimates of potential visitation to the Grandview Center, parking demand should be easily met on a daily basis with over 700 total parking spaces proposed at Grandview. Please see table 5 for distribution of parking.

Daily visitation activities under alternative 3 should generate a relatively short length of stay, keeping parking demand from overwhelming available resources. However, impacts from additional vehicles on very busy days during special events may require overflow or additional management to protect resources and prevent safety problems. Encouraging bus groups and potential shuttle arrangements are management options to reduce parking impacts. Some impacts on busy weekends and special event days could impact picnic users especially in picnic areas one and two near the new proposed center development. This would cause some additional picnic activity to be moved to more distant picnic sites onsite. Monitoring and adjustment such as adding picnic tables at the Turkey Spur parking area would help to mitigate impacts and allow staff to manage according to demand.

Alternative 3 would also add some increased peak traffic flow problems on busy events and weekends along highway 9. In addition, increased daily traffic flow would occur as the center developed and operated on a full-time basis.

TABLE 5: DISTRIBUTION OF PARKING FOR ALTERNATIVE 3

Site	Spaces
Main Parking Area	435 (5 buses)
Festival Meadow	86
Picnic Area 1	40
Picnic Area 2	32
Picnic Area 3	53
Turkey Spur Parking	34
Bus-Turkey Spur	2
New Park Operations Area	60
Staff Residence	3
Total	**745**

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts to cultural resources are similar to those discussed in alternatives 1 and 2.

A total of 5 acres of previously undisturbed soil and vegetation loss would occur from new development.

Water quality impacts are similar to those discussed under alternative 1. There would be a long-term positive impact from the restoration of the seep patterns near Cliffside Amphitheater that would improve drainage.

Increased traffic impacts to the visitor experience and road conditions would be similar to those outlined under alternative 1.

Under alternatives 3, 4, and 5 there is an increased direct and indirect cumulative impact to the local and regional socioeconomic environment resulting from the additional staff hired by the operator of the cultural heritage center. With facilities at Grandview to support the programming effort, it is conceivable that regional and national visitors could participate in activities from a central location and would stay for longer periods requiring hotel accommodations and other visitor services.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 4

Summary

This alternative would provide for large on-site development and new construction to accommodate a large cultural center operation, which would affect approximately 15 acres of new development or roughly three times more than alternative 3. The new development would disturb approximately 12 acres of undisturbed natural areas at Grandview. The remaining 3 acres of new disturbance is in previously disturbed areas, lawn areas, or in place of existing development. The most extensive impacts would occur from new development, which would remove mixed deciduous forest and small conifer areas and increase road and parking areas. No rare, threatened, or endangered species would be impacted under this alternative.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

New Park Operations and Turkey Spur. Archeological concerns for this development are identical to those for the new park operations and Turkey Spur areas in alternatives 2 and 3.

Core Area. Archeological concerns for this development scenario are identical to that for the core area in alternative 3.

Center Housing. Prehistoric materials were found over much of the area designated for the center housing under this alternative, and any development of comparable size would necessitate additional archeological testing at two of the sites where cultural material is clustered. Direct and indirect impacts from such a dramatic increase in the public presence and activities would pose a threat to the archeological sites.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Impacts on Vegetation and Soils. In addition to development impacts described in alternative 2, under alternative 4, the largest amount of natural vegetated areas at Grandview would be removed. The proposed center housing, lodge, and expanded picnic facilities would alter and remove up to 7 acres of mostly even aged mixed conifer forest. Most of the large buildings would be built on piles and elevated to reduce excavation impacts and reduce excessive soil loss onsite. The center housing and lodge area is a dry upland site and is a medium canopy forest with understory species adapted to shade and cool areas. These areas would be fragmented and would require extensive revegetation and restoration with native species.

The cleared vegetation would have localized visual impacts on the adjacent picnic areas and pond site. Development would be visible, especially in winter months when the trees are bare, and would be close to a busy picnic area.

Although the habitat lost in this proposal is typical of the abundant dry upland mixed deciduous forest found on ridgetops throughout Grandview, there would be a localized adverse impact by removal of a large area of forest. Increased light and soil temperatures would change forest species and create a more developed and edge species habitat. The paved areas would be a permeable or gravel-based material that would help mitigate the loss of soil resources by reducing erosion, drilling, and channelization.

Localized impacts would also occur with loss of a large section of native seed, duff and litter, and topsoil that should be saved and stockpiled indefinitely for later use as described in alternatives 2 and 3. This development proposal would permanently eliminate the last large undeveloped ridgetop habitat and largest undeveloped forest environment in the main heavy use area of Grandview. This would reduce the additional vegetation buffers in the areas around the picnic sites and pond area and add an additional 2% of overall natural vegetation loss at the Grandview site. Although localized adverse impact from increased vegetation removal and clearing would occur in addition to an adverse impact to flora species diversity at Grandview, this alternative would not create significant impacts that would destroy or significantly alter the more expansive evenness of the Grandview mixed deciduous forest.

The larger center developments in the amphitheater area do not adversely affect natural vegetation areas. Most of the 2 acres are predisturbed locations and non-native turf grasses. Some minor loss of large trees may occur for building construction and pathways. Important mitigation for these impacts includes restoration with native shrubs and understory species, the reapplication of the native topsoil and duff removed from cleared areas, and design that reduces impacts to the natural terrain as much as possible. Additional vegetation may be needed below the rim areas between the pond and the new developed areas to reduce social trails down the fragile hillside and to maintain buffers.

Impacts on Wildlife. No significant adverse effects on wildlife would occur. Impacts to wildlife habitat are similar to those described under alternatives 2 and 3, with the exception of additional losses of cover and buffer areas from development for species using the pond site. The proposed lodge and center housing would, in the short term, alter deer and other wildlife migration routes in the localized area. Although rarely seen at Grandview, this additional development and noise could further displace bears, bobcats, and other recluse wildlife away from the upper ridgetop areas of Grandview and more to the steeper and more densely covered hillsides and lower ravines and drainages.

Alternative 4 would have little to no major adverse effects on wildlife in the major core area development as in alternative 3. Most of the predisturbed area for the core development is marginal habitat, except for small bird and mammal species that would not be permanently affected.

Deer frequent the proposed new development areas as forage and cover habitat. This development would remove and add to habitat fragmentation at Grandview, but would not eliminate critical range or habitat areas for any species.

Impacts on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species. No rare, threatened, or endangered species would be affected in alternative 4.

Impacts on Air and Water Quality. Air quality impacts are similar to those discussed in alternatives 2 and 3. An increase in automobile emissions would be associated with this alternative over the other alternatives because alternative 4 would create more visitation and longer overnight stays. Bus and group transportation would be encouraged.

Short-term impacts to water quality during construction would be similar to those described in previous alternatives with the use of the same mitigation and erosion control standards. Special care is needed in the proposed lodge area as the southern edge of the hill is watershed for the pond area. Vegetated buffers,and extensive silt control and brush barriers would be used. The upgrading of the roadbed above the pond for one way traffic may cause some minor sedimentation impacts to the pond during construction. However, a wide, over 100-foot buffer remains below the highway and would not be disturbed to reduce adverse impacts. Runoff from the new road would have insignificant impacts to water quality in the pond.

Some small stream crossings would be required in this proposed alternative for accessible trails and pedestrian footbridges. These would have no significant or adverse effects on the small drainages crossed. No significant water quality impacts would occur in this proposal above those described in alternative 2. Wastewater would be treated as in alternatives 2 and 3. No wetlands would be impacted in this alternative with exception to potential impacts around the small drainage/wetland adjacent to the amphitheater as described in alternative 3.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

This alternative would increase developed and visitor use areas and crowding at Grandview by as much as 50% more than the site currently handles. A total of 779 parking spaces would be onsite, which would increase available parking and reduce (but not eliminate) overcrowding problems on busy weekends and for special events. See table 6 for distribution of parking.

TABLE 6: DISTRIBUTION OF PARKING FOR ALTERNATIVE 4

Site	Spaces
Main Parking Area	400
Festival Meadow	51
Picnic Area 1	40
Picnic Area 2 (expanded site)	92
Picnic Area 3	53
Turkey Spur Parking	34
Center Housing	39
Bus-Turkey Spur	2
New Park Operations Area	60
Staff Residence	3
Total	**779**

Some traditional uses onsite such as picnic and hiking along the big buck trail may be permanently affected in this alternative with development of the ridgetop adjacent to picnic area 3 and increased development near the main picnic area behind the amphitheater. However, this alternative does offer the potential for additional picnic use onsite with the proposed expansion in picnic area 2. Additional crowds and visitation onsite would require diligent monitoring to assess gradual natural resource changes and heavy use from increased visitor use. Some strategies may include closing some areas to use until they recover or can be restored or maintained to prevent degradation to soil, vegetation, or aesthetic concerns.

The existing visual environment would be altered in the main parking and amphitheater areas with increased development, large structures, and a more dense visitor use zone.

This may have a spill over and negative impact on the visitor experience and into quieter areas of the park such as trails and wooded areas.

Circulation changes would increase the site's ability to handle larger traffic and parking demands. No significant adverse impacts would occur from the proposed road closure.

The market area for Grandview encompasses an area within a 250-mile radius from the park. This area includes the cities of Charlotte, Richmond, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Louisville, as well as numerous smaller communities in West Virginia and adjacent other states. While these communities serve as the projected market area from which most visitors to the site would come, the close proximity of several interstate highways to the site and the popularity of bus tours/groups indicate that it is possible that many of the visitors to the center may originate from outside that 250-mile radius.

Tourism accounts for approximately $2.5 billion of West Virginia's economy. State officials are enthusiastic about the proposed concepts for a cultural heritage center at Grandview. They share the view of local officials that such a center at Grandview would be a major step towards the development of Beckley as a destination for out-of-state- tourists.

The market study completed in June 1993 indicates that annual visitation to Grandview after the development of a cultural heritage center, as described in alternatives 4 and 5, could reach 650,000.

As currently envisioned under alternatives 4 and 5, the center would need an estimated $480,000 a year to cover operational costs and an additional $600,000 to $800,000 for programming. An average daily admission fee of $2 per person to the center (buildings and immediate grounds) would generate enough capital to cover the cost of administering the center, day-to-day maintenance costs, and some programming. These fees could be supplemented by income from the restaurant, gift shop, craft commissions, and program fees.

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts to cultural resources are similar to those discussed in alternatives 1 and 2.

Alternative 4 would require 15 acres for the new development, 12 acres would be affected in previously undisturbed areas, and 3 acres would be affected in previously disturbed areas. Short-term cumulative impacts would affect primarily vegetation and soils. Long-term impacts would affect the deciduous forest.

The addition of the rustic cabins and lodges under this alternative would increase visitor use and access to this previously isolated area. Effects to the water quality of the pond would be mitigated with special buffers. As a result, there should be no long-term cumulative impacts to water quality.

Increased traffic impacts to the visitor experience and road conditions is similar to those outlined under alternative 1; however, the development and visitor use areas purposed under this alternative could increase crowding by as much as 50% from current conditions.

IMPACTS OF ALTERNATIVE 5

Summary

Impacts under alternative 5 are similar to alternative 4; however, less development and cleared areas are proposed under alternative 5. Approximately 8 acres on the Grandview site would be affected and under alternative 5 , and no proposed center housing or lodge in the ridgetop area above the pond. Alternative 5 has similar impacts as alternatives 3 and 4 in the main core activity area, and the same impacts as those described in alternative 2 for the proposed park operations and administrative developments. Alternative 5 has the second largest impacts of the alternatives, with a .9% increase in development overall at Grandview.

Impacts on Cultural Resources

New Park Operations and Turkey Spur. Archeological concerns for this development are identical to those for the new park operations and Turkey Spur areas in alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

Core Area. Archeological concerns for this development scenario are virtually identical to those for the core area in alternative 3 and 4.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Impacts on Vegetation and Soils. Impacts are similar to those described in alternatives 2, 3, and 4. This alternative has a reduction in clearing undisturbed areas by as much as 7 acres from alternative 4. No new significant losses of vegetation would occur above those described in alternatives 3 and 4.

Impacts on Wildlife. Impacts to wildlife habitat are similar to those described for alternatives 2 and 3. Alternative five concentrates more development in previously disturbed or currently occupied areas and reduces the loss of natural habitat areas by nearly 50% from alternative 4. No additional or new wildlife impacts would occur in five above those described in alternatives 3 and 4.

Impacts on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species. No rare, threatened, or endangered species would be affected in alternative 5.

Impacts on Air and Water Quality. Air quality impacts are similar to alternatives 3 and 4. No additional water quality impacts would occur under alternative 5 that are different from those described in alternative 2 and 4.

The proposed small interpretive boardwalk to the pond would be designed to minimize fill and alteration of the pond and shoreline habitat. Except for the placement of piles for the decking, no fill or loss of wetland habitat would occur. The path would allow access and interpretation of the pond area without additional trampling and social trail use around the pond. The boardwalk would be on an existing open field area; therefore, no marsh or wetland plant species would be removed.

Alternative 5 proposes no additional development in streams or drainages with exception to small paths and bridge crossings similar to those described in alternative 4. These would not offer any significant or adverse impacts to stream water quality at Grandview.

Impacts on Socioeconomic Environment

Impacts for alternative 5 are similar to those described in alternatives 2, 3, and 4. However, more parking would be provided. A total of 607 parking spaces would be onsite, which would reduce overcrowding problems on busy weekends and during special events. See table 7 for distribution of parking.

TABLE 7: DISTRIBUTION OF PARKING FOR ALTERNATIVE 5

Sites	Spaces	
Main Parking Area	302	(7 buses)
Festival Meadow	74	
Picnic Area 1	40	
Picnic Area 2	32	
Picnic Area 3	53	
Turkey spur Parking	34	
Bus-Turkey Spur	2	
New Park Operations Area	60	
Staff Residence	3	
Total	**607**	

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts to cultural resources would be similar to those outlined in alternatives 1 and 2.

Approximately 8 acres of previously undisturbed vegetation would be affected.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

National Environmental Policy Act

The Grandview Cultural Center DCP/EA assesses impacts and proposals pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires that federal agencies assess their proposals for a full range of impacts on the natural and cultural environment and that alternatives are provided and analyzed to decide whether the proposed action could have a significant affect on the human environment. This document would be released for public and agency review for 30 days after which the National Park Service (NPS) would decide if the proposed actions are significant enough to require a preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If so, a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS will be prepared and announced in the *Federal Register*. If no EIS is required, the regional director may sign a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), which concludes NEPA compliance for this project and clears it for funding and development.

Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470, et. seq.) Within the Grandview study area, potential impacts on the cultural resources must be addressed under the provisions for assessing effects outlined in 36 CFR, part 800, regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation implementing section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA; 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*). Under the "Criteria of Effect" [36 CFR Part 800.9(a)], federal undertakings are considered to have an effect when they alter the character, integrity, use of a cultural resource, or the qualities that qualify a property for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service will consult with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to ensure that NPS operation, management, and administration provide for the site's cultural resources in accordance with the intent of National Park Service policies and with sections 106, 110, and 111 of the NHPA, as stated in the 1990 programmatic agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. Under stipulation D of the programmatic agreement, all undertakings that are not considered categorical exclusions, or are not included in plans reviewed under former programmatic memoranda of agreement would be reviewed in accordance with 36 CFR, part 800. A list of actions that will or will not require further consultation can be found in appendix G.

Internally, the National Park Service will complete an "Assessment of Actions Having an Effect on Cultural Resources" form (XXX Form) prior to the implementation of any proposed action. The form would document any project effects and outline actions proposed to mitigate any effects. All implementing actions for cultural resources will be reviewed using the XXX form and certified by the regional office cultural resource specialists as specified in NPS-28.

Before any ground-disturbing action by the National Park Service, a professional archeologist will determine the need for archeological inventory or testing evaluation. Any such studies will be carried out before or in conjunction with construction and will meet the requirements of the state historic preservation office and the National Park Service.

Five prehistoric and two historic sites were identified during archeological testing in 1992 as needing further investigation if development is planned at or near them. Preliminary indications are that the identified sites are not likely to be highly significant; however, their true potential for contributions to local or regional prehistory and history should be investigated further.

Impacts that cannot be avoided through design would be mitigated through sufficient archeological excavation to fully understand the site before disturbance occurs.

If the cultural landscape assessment finds evidence that Grandview is eligible for listing as an intact and significant designed historic landscape on the National Register of Historic Places, a national register nomination will be undertaken as defined in NPS-28.

Natural Resources

Endangered Species Act of 1973. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act directs all federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purpose of the act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered or threatened species. Federal agencies are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat.

In February 1992 the National Park Service contacted West Virginia's natural heritage program concerning their listing of state endangered or threatened species, species of special concern, and critical habitat. The state responded as described earlier in this document.

Formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 22, 1992, with a request for survey needs. USFWS responded on February 10, 1992, indicating that aside from an occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under their jurisdiction was known to exist at Grandview. No biological assessment or further section 7 consultation was required by USFWS.

Executive Order 11988 *Floodplain Management* and Executive Order 11990 *Protection of Wetlands*. Executive Order 11988 requires all federal agencies to avoid construction within the 100-year floodplain unless no other practical alternative exists. Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands" requires federal agencies to avoid, where possible, impacts on wetlands. All alternatives and actions proposed in this plan avoided any development within a 100-year floodplain or in wetlands areas.

Alternative 5 proposes a small interpretive boardwalk on pilings that would provide controlled access to the pond site and interpretation of the wetland environment. This action would not cause extensive nor adverse impacts to the wetlands. However, the guidelines for wetlands and floodplain protection do not specifically give exception to building a boardwalk in a wetland. Therefore, a statement of findings (SOF), signed by the Director, National Park Service, would need to accompany the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for alternative 5 if the boardwalk was constructed into the pond and surrounding wetland environment. No other alternatives propose actions that would affect wetlands or floodplain values.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). No fill, dredge, or other manipulation of wetlands or navigable waters are proposed in any alternatives, except for actions related to the boardwalk proposed under alternative 5. Consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and West Virginia Division of Water Resources would be required during design of the facility if proposed to obtain clearance for potential fill of a wetland. Because the boardwalk would be sensitive in design and intended to protect the wetland from excessive foot and visitor use, the action would most likely be granted a nationwide permit or letter to proceed without an extensive permit process.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). An NPDES permit would be required for the sewage treatment facility from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and if necessary, clearance from the West Virginia Department of Water Resources if NPDES authority has been granted to the state. This process would involve extensive testing of waters and review of the proposed facility. Compliance responsibility for this action is shared in cooperation with the environmental engineer for the facility. Strict water pollution requirements for the New River would require the highest treatment quality for water released into the watershed. An erosion control permit will be requested from the state of West Virginia's Water Quality Division prior to construction documents.

Council on Environmental Quality Memorandum on Prime or Unique Farmland Soils. A memorandum dated August 11, 1980, from the Council on Environmental Quality requires federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on soils classified by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as prime or unique farmlands. The information contained in the various studies used for this report, including the SCS soil survey, indicate that there are no such soils in the project area, so there will be no impact on prime or unique farmlands.

State and Local Compliance Procedures. There are various state agencies that will need to be contacted during the design phase of this project concerning permit requirements. These include, but are not limited to the West Virginia Public Lands Corporation; the West Virginia Division of Water Resources; the West Virginia Department of Commerce, Labor and Environmental Resources; the West Virginia Department of Health; and the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

COST ESTIMATES

Classs "C" cost estimates are included for the four action alternatives. No cost estimates are provided for alternative 1 (no-action) because no new construction is recommended. These 1993 estimates include the costs for resource preservation, new support development, and utilities. (See appendixes E and F for the implementation schedule and the areas affected by construction and reconstruction.) Each alternative has estimated the cost for a maintenance shop at 10,000 square feet as opposed to the 5,400 square feet called for in the plan to allow for expansion if necessary during the design phase of the project.

Cost Estimates - Alternative 2

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Remove/relocate existing maintenance, staff housing units, visitor contact	$569,064	$108,600	$677,664
Dump site clean-up	13,100	2,500	15,600
Park Operations Center Clearing/grubbing, base grading, gravel surface of yards, new asphalt road construction, parking, composting	699,868	133,563	833,431
Staff housing and parking	260,428	49,700	310,128
Ranger fire cache	141,480	27,000	168,480
Maintenance shop	1,506,500	287,500	1,794,000
Covered parking/vehicle storage	165,060	31,500	196,560
Ranger offices	239,075	45,625	284,700
Sewage treatment lab and facility	1,892,950	361,250	2,254,200
Security fence/gate	35,501	6,775	42,276
Turkey Spur Clearing/grubbing, road obliteration/restoration to intersection of picnic areas 2 and 3, base grading, pave pedestrian walk, flagstone terrace, new asphalt road construction, parking	770,018	146,950	916,968

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Core Area			
Amphitheater roof	4,421,250	843,750	5,265,000
Visitor contact station	491,250	93,750	585,000
Utility corridor burial	884,250	168,750	1,053,000
Signs Entry (1), small (20)	20,960	4,000	24,960
Gravel base/surface Length of service road between new maintenance area and picnic area 3 to river	707,400	135,000	842,400
Paved areas service areas, service road and lot behind amphitheater	123,795	23,625	147,420
Old maintenance area base grading, road obliteration/restoration and revegetation	40,348	7,700	48,048
Road obliteration/restoration of existing road system	1,907,360	364,000	2,271,360
Revegetation for all areas of construction disturbance	430,309	82,120	512,429
Subtotal	15,319,966	2,923,658	18,243,624
General Conditions	1,762,582		
Total	**$17,082,548**	**$2,923,658**	**$20,006,206**

Cost Estimates - Alternative 3

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Remove/relocate existing maintenance area staffing housing units, visitor contact	$569,064	$108,600	$677,664
Dump site clean-up	13,100	2,500	15,600
Park Operations Center Clearing/grubbing, base grading, gravel surface of yards, new asphalt road construction, parking spaces, composting	699,868	133,563	833,431
Staff housing and parking	260,428	49,700	310,128
Ranger fire cache	141,480	27,000	168,480
Maintenance shop	1,506,500	287,500	1,794,000
Covered parking/vehicle storage	165,060	31,500	196,560
Ranger offices	239,075	45,625	284,700
Sewage treatment lab and facility	1,892,950	361,250	2,254,200
Security fence/gate	35,501	6,775	42,276
Turkey Spur Clearing/grubbing, road obliteration/restoration at intersection of picnic areas 2 and 3, base grading, pave pedestrian walk, flagstone terrace, new asphalt road, parking	770,018	146,950	916,968
Core Area			
Research facility (Conference office space, restroom, study/small library, archival, audiovisual equipment and lab)	675,698	128,950	804,648
Amphitheater Reconstruct (retain existing seating and staging area), add roof, boardwalk and decking	4,483,901	855,706	5,339,607

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Sales/demonstrations building	281,781	53,775	335,556
Orientation building (interpretation, information desk, gallery, ticket sales, exhibit/interpretive area, storage, office space)	498,979	95,225	594,204
Community Hall (dance floor, platform stage, restroom, kitchen, storage space)	1,404,975	268,125	1,673,100
Multiuse building	231,412	44,163	275,575
Administration building	269,729	51,475	321,204
Festival meadow base grading, new asphalt road construction, parking	300,514	57,350	357,864
Flagstone terrace/walkways at community hall, amphitheater	82,530	15,750	98,280
Stone bridge(s)	52,269	9,975	62,244
Stone drinking fountains (3)	9,825	1,875	11,700
Boardwalk and decking around amphitheater	30,458	5,813	36,271
Footbridge(s) and railing	77,290	14,750	92,040
Trails to connect buildings	66,286	12,650	78,936
Re-establish orchard (16 trees)	6,288	1,200	7,488
Additional rhododendrons (200 around amphitheater, Festival meadow)	20,960	4,000	24,960
Evergreen (buffer/screen) staff housing, festival meadow, amphitheater	39,300	7,500	46,800
General Work			
Utility corridor burial	884,250	168,750	1,053,000
Signs Entry (3), small (20)	47,160	9,000	56,160

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Gravel base/surface Length of service road between new maintenance area and picnic area 3	707,400	135,000	842,400
Road obliteration/restoration of existing road system	953,680	182,000	1,135,680
Repave all existing road and parking areas	1,907,360	364,000	2,271,360
Pave service areas, service road, and lot behind amphitheater	123,795	23,625	147,420
Revegetation for all areas of construction disturbance	786,934	150,178	937,112
Subtotal	19,043,718	3,634,298	22,678,016
General Conditions	2,211,766		
Totals	**$21,255,484**	**$3,634,298**	**$24,889,782**

Cost Estimates - Alternative 4

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Remove/relocate existing maintenance area, staff housing units, visitor contact	$569,064	$108,600	$677,664
Dump site clean-up	13,100	2,500	15,600
Park Operations Center Clearing/grubbing, base grading, gravel surface of yards, new asphalt road construction, parking, composting	699,868	133,563	833,431
Staff housing and parking	260,428	49,700	310,128
Ranger fire cache	141,480	27,000	168,480
Maintenance shop	1,506,500	287,500	1,794,000
Covered parking/vehicle storage	165,060	31,500	196,560
Ranger offices	239,075	45,625	284,700
Sewage treatment lab and facility	1,892,950	361,250	2,254,200
Security fence/gate	35,501	6,775	42,276
Turkey Spur Clearing/grubbing, obliteration/restoration of road from picnic areas 2 and 3, pave pedestrian walk, flagstone terrace, new asphalt road construction, parking, base grading	770,018	146,950	916,968
Core Area			
Research facility (conference, office space, restrooms, study/small library, archival, audiovisual equipment and lab)	660,502	126,050	786,552
Amphitheater Reconstruct (demolish entry, remove/replace existing seating, regrade/terrace seating,refurbish stage/theater, construct small stage off rear of theater) add roof	6,212,315	1,185,556	7,397,871

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Sales/demonstrations building (display, storage, office, sales area)	160,082	30,550	190,632
Restrooms	294,750	56,250	351,000
Orientation building (interpretation, information desk, gallery, ticket sales, exhibit/interpretive area, storage, office space)	616,159	117,588	733,747
Community Hall (dance floor, platform stage, restroom, kitchen, storage space)	1,404,975	268,125	1,673,100
Administration building	310,732	59,300	370,032
Family style restaurant	686,145	130,944	817,089
Indoor theater (200 seats)	724,201	138,206	862,407
Restrooms	471,600	90,000	561,600
Heritage foods	331,266	63,219	394,485
Theater entry building (ticket sales, offices, exhibit/gallery space)	274,183	52,325	326,508
Multipurpose building	194,109	37,044	231,153
Crafts pavilion	510,121	97,351	607,472
Nature center	145,541	27,775	173,316
Rustic cottages (11), including Clearing/grubbing	264,620	50,500	315,120
Lodges (2) (bedrooms, bathrooms, community room)	1,268,735	242,125	1,510,860
Lodge (bedrooms, bathrooms, community kitchen)	634,368	121,063	755,431
New asphalt road construction, base grading, parking for cottages and lodges	290,296	55,400	345,696
Festival meadow Base grading, new asphalt road construction, parking spaces	236,324	45,100	281,424

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Drop-off loop Base grading, new asphalt road construction	66,024	12,600	78,624
Stone fire ring with benches	22,598	4,313	26,911
Stone stairways (2) between Festival meadow and old roadbed	282,960	54,000	336,960
Stone bridge(s) (3)	36,680	7,000	43,680
Boardwalk/decking around amphitheater, to pond, catwalk between center and amphitheater	968,745	184,875	1,153,620
Trails to connect buildings	216,150	41,250	257,400
Re-establish orchard (16 trees)	6,288	1,200	7,488
Additional rhododendrons (500 + around amphitheater, staff housing, center, Festival meadow)	52,400	10,000	62,400
Stone drinking fountains (6)	19,650	3,750	23,400
Footbridge(s) and railing	77,290	14,750	92,040
Flagstone terrace/walkways at community hall, amphitheater, center, restaurant	178,854	34,133	212,987
Evergreen buffer	39,300	7,500	46,800
Picnic Areas			
Picnic area 2 Clearing/grubbing, base grading, new asphalt road construction, parking spaces, picnic tables	496,490	94,750	591,240
Picnic area 3 Parking spaces, shelters, restrooms/comfort stations	257,808	49,200	307,008
General Work			
Utility corridor burial	884,250	168,750	1,053,000
Signs Entry (9), Small (50)	137,550	26,250	163,800

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Gravel base/surface Length of service road between new maintenance area and picnic area 3 to river	707,400	135,000	842,400
Park entry road base grading	222,373	42,438	264,811
Adjust alignment on new asphalt road construction	144,100	27,500	171,600
Repave all existing road and parking areas	1,907,360	364,000	2,271,360
Old roadbed base grade, clearing/grubbing, new asphalt construction	347,019	66,225	413,244
Pave service areas, service road, and behind amphitheater	123,795	23,625	147,420
Revegetation for all areas of construction disturbance	1,846,486	352,383	2,198,869
Subtotal	31,025,638	5,920,926	36,946,564
General Conditions	3,556,442		
Totals	**$34,582,080**	**$5,920,926**	**$40,503,006**

Cost Estimates - Alternative 5

Development Item	Gross Construction	Construction Planning	Total Costs
Remove/relocate existing maintenance area, staff housing units, visitor contact	$569,064	$108,600	$677,664
Base grading old maintenance area	27,510	5,250	32,760
Dump site clean-up	13,100	2,500	15,600
Park Operations Center Clearing/grubbing, base grading, gravel surface of yards, new asphalt road construction, parking spaces, composting	699,868	133,563	833,431
Staff housing and parking	260,428	49,700	310,128
Ranger fire cache	141,480	27,000	168,480
Maintenance shop	1,506,500	287,500	1,794,000
Covered parking/vehicle storage	165,060	31,500	196,560
Ranger offices	239,075	45,625	284,700
Sewage treatment lab and facility	1,892,950	361,250	2,254,200
Security fence/gate	35,501	6,775	42,276
Turkey Spur Clearing/grubbing, road obliteration/restoration at intersection of picnic areas 2 and 3, base grading, pave pedestrian walk, flagstone terrace, new asphalt road, parking	770,018	146,950	916,968
Core Area			
Research facility (conference office space, restroom, study/small library, archival, audiovisual equipment and lab)	592,022	112,981	705,003
Amphitheater Reconstruct/partial remodel with porch, earthwork, add roof	4,974,725	949,375	5,924,100
Sales/demonstrations building	592,480	113,069	705,549

Orientation building	498,979	95,225	594,204
Community hall	1,404,975	268,125	1,673,100
Administration building	362,150	69,113	431,263
Heritage foods	836,173	159,575	995,748
Nature center	146,851	28,025	174,876
Festival meadow Base grading, new asphalt road construction, parking	318,330	60,750	379,080
Drop-off loop at entry	72,050	13,750	85,800
Main parking area spaces(asphalt)	539,589	102,975	642,564
Stone stairway between Festival meadow and old roadbed	6,878	1,313	8,191
Stone bridge(s)	93,338	17,813	111,151
Boardwalk/decking/railing around amphitheater, catwalk between center and amphitheater	1,055,533	201,438	1,256,971
Trails to connect buildings	86,460	16,500	102,960
Re-establish orchard (16 trees)	6,288	1,200	7,488
Additional rhododendrons (600 + around amphitheater, Festival meadow, and center)	62,880	12,000	74,880
Evergreen buffer	39,300	7,500	46,800
Stone drinking fountains (4)	13,100	2,500	15,600
Footbridge and railing	84,168	16,063	100,231
Flagstone terrace/walkways at community hall, amphitheater, and special events lane	639,018	121,950	760,968
General Work			
Utility corridor burial	884,250	168,750	1,053,000
Signs Entry (6), Small (50)	98,250	18,750	117,000
Gravel base/surface length of service road between new maintenance area and picnic area 3 to river	707,400	135,000	842,400

Repave all existing road and parking areas	**1,907,360**	**364,000**	**2,271,360**
Old roadbed clearing/grubbing, base grading, new asphalt construction	**347,019**	**66,225**	**413,244**
Base grading of park entry road	**33,012**	**6,300**	**39,312**
New road alignment adjustment, base grading, asphalt	**504,809**	**96,3383**	**601,147**
Pave service areas, service road, and lot behind amphitheater	**123,795**	**23,625**	**147,420**
Revegetation for all areas of construction disturbance	**1,257,456**	**239,973**	**1,497,429**
Subtotal	**24,609,192**	**4,696,414**	**29,305,606**
General Conditions	**2,818,585**		
Totals	**$27,427,777**	**$4,696,414**	**$32,124,191**

INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

GRANDVIEW'S OVERALL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The National Park Service would continue to play a lead role in fulfilling the park's legislative mandate to "conserve and interpret outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects in and around New River Gorge" under any alternative selected for development at Grandview. The interpretive program would complement services available in other areas of the park.

Grandview contains all of the elements for which the park was established. As an example, the main overlook provides some of the best views of the New River and the rugged landscape for which the park is nationally significant. Most visitors to Grandview would continue to visit the site for the recreational, natural, and cultural values that are embodied by the New River Gorge National River.

Cultural Heritage Program

As an integral part of the unit's overall interpretive program, a cultural heritage program within the cultural heritage center would be developed. Because the center would function as a cultural heritage center rather than a visitor center, the program would focus on the activities that accurately reflect the culture, traditions, and values of central Appalachia. The program would give visitors a sense for and appreciation of the industrial culture and heritage of the central Appalachian region.

Themes and Goals

Basic to NPS interpretive planning is an identification of interpretive themes and goals — overall guiding concepts of what visitors should have the opportunity to learn and understand about the site. NPS interpretive programs and exhibits for Grandview and the cultural heritage center would reflect the following interpretive themes and goals:

Primary Interpretive Themes

The New River Gorge National River today represents a change in America's values and the perception of wildlands over the last 200 years—from that of wilderness as a barrier to human progress to that of wildlands for inspiration and recreation.

New River is unique because it was formed earlier than most other rivers seen today, and has retained its course despite significant geological changes.

The character of the New River and the gorge has resulted in a significant concentration of biological and cultural diversity that is well-illustrated in the park.

New River Gorge exemplifies the rapid industrialization of America at the turn of the 20th century. This industrialization prompted major man-made changes in the gorge's ecosystem and in the appearance of the landscape.

Cultural Heritage Center Themes

The industrialization of America at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century has historically influenced the cultural heritage of the region and continues to effect the culture and values today.

The combination of topographic isolation and mixing of the cultural and ethnic groups produces a unique cultural heritage.

The influence of basic extractive industries on central Appalachia contrasts with the agricultural-based culture of southern Appalachia.

Goals

Visitors would understand how industrialization influenced the culture, traditions, and values of communities in central Appalachia.

Visitors would understand the family life and social structure prevalent in company owned towns.

Visitors would understand that culture heritage is an ongoing and vibrant process that changes with time and exposure to new influences.

Visitors would understand that the industrial development in New River Gorge and Central Appalachia brought a mix of ethnic groups to this isolated area. This created a unique blend of cultural traditions and values.

Visitors would understand that the Appalachian region extends from New York to Georgia and is culturally diverse.

To achieve these goals, a number of displays, facilities, and events designed to provide critical information and to accommodate activities and special programs would be provided throughout Grandview.

Information and Orientation

A small, centrally located NPS visitor contact station for the cultural heritage center would be situated in a logical starting place to direct Grandview visitors. The estimated costs for staffing, facilities, and programs described at the end of the section.

An information counter would accommodate two park rangers and a cooperating association employee with a storage capacity for a minimum of 100 informational brochures.

A wall-mounted activity board would display all daily and weekly (both NPS and cultural heritage center) events with a section for special events.

Simple wall-mounted photo exhibit panels would represent other cultural heritage sites and the diversity of visitor opportunities within New River Gorge National River.

A large topographic relief model or graphic panel would depict Bluestone National Scenic River, New River Gorge National River, and Gauley River National Recreation Area.

A cooperating association display and sales area would display approximately 300 books and sales items.

Interpretive Activities

Sweeping overlooks, a system of developed trails, visible cultural remains, and diverse natural resources offer opportunities for extensive ranger-guided interpretive activities. The increased visitation generated by the cultural heritage center would expand demand for these presentations. Program examples would include natural resource hikes, campfire programs, cultural history talks and walks, and the New River Neighbors Program.

The cultural heritage center program would include interpretive activities such as traditional craft demonstrations, music, dance, storytelling, drama and festival presentations. In addition to these programs, workshops would be offered on traditional folk arts of central Appalachia. The workshops could include sessions on music, craft, storytelling, and drama.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important ingredient in the interpretive program at New River Gorge National River. School groups from the region participate in presentations designed to acquaint students with the natural and cultural history of New River Gorge, as well as introducing them to the National Park Service.

Grandview provides unique opportunities to educate the region's students about the relationship of natural and cultural forces in New River Gorge. Forested trails, rock outcroppings, and views of the gorge provide resources for natural history programs while subsistence farming remnants and overlooks on mining, railroad, and logging areas provide physical resources for cultural history programs.

Adequate facilities for environmental education need to be provided. A dedicated space would be constructed to house two classrooms, each large enough to hold a minimum of 35 students, storage for tools, audiovisual equipment, books, and other resource material; a small display/exhibit area; and office/administrative space for a minimum of two interpreters.

As a complement to this basic program, the heritage center facilities would be used to increase understanding of the human history, culture, and heritage of the New River. Environmental education would be an ideal program in which the heritage center staff and NPS staff would cooperate to benefit local communities and southern West Virginia.

Routine Information/Interpretation

The large anticipated number of visitors coming to Grandview and the cultural heritage center would require that many elements of routine information and interpretation be addressed by wayside exhibits, bulletin boards, and publications.

> Wayside exhibits at the overlooks would explain visible elements of the natural and cultural scene. Waysides may also be used to orient visitors and identify the various facilities of the heritage center.
>
> Bulletin boards placed in high traffic areas would keep visitors informed of activity schedules, emergency procedures, rules and regulations, and safety concerns.
>
> Publications would include, but not be limited to, an overall site orientation brochure or book, informational pamphlets on crafts and craftsmen, informational pamphlets on the local flora and fauna.

INTERPRETIVE FOCUS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER/PROGRAM

Purpose of the Center

The primary purpose of the cultural heritage center is to give the visitor a sense for and appreciation of the industrial culture and heritage of the Central Appalachian region. To effectively preserve and interpret the culture and values of Central Appalachia, research would be an integral facet of the cultural heritage center. Although New River and southern West Virginia are part of the larger Appalachian region that extends from New York to Georgia, a pattern of industrial growth and development that is unique to the New River area is evident.

Isolated by geography and topography, the culture of the Appalachia region is rooted in the traditions of the numerous ethnic groups that came here to work and live. The evolution of traditions, folkways, and cultural values is a dynamic process. The facility at Grandview would provide a setting for the interpretation of regional culture and traditions. The center would also serve as a resource bank for preserving the folk history of the region. This would be accomplished through the research, study, preservation and interpretation of the traditions, folkways and history of southern West Virginia. Visitors would see the products of research and preservation through the availability of crafts, music, storytelling, drama, and other art forms at the center.

Mission

The mission of the cultural heritage center would be twofold—to conserve and interpret the folklife of communities along the New River Gorge National River and throughout southern West Virginia and to interpret the folklife of Central Appalachia.

The mission involves conservation and interpretation. Although interpretation is an important facet of the area, it is crucial that the conservation of local culture be fully interwoven into all interpretive functions. The distinction between conservation and interpretation is that cultural conservation supports efforts of local inhabitants who create objects or continue practices that sustain their community life and values, whereas cultural interpretation communicates the significance of cultural resources in a fashion that would be appreciated by a particular audience.

Local and Regional Involvement

Involvement of the resident population provides a link between conservation and interpretation. By assisting in the interpretation of their culture to others, it is possible for local residents to see the value of their culture through the eyes of others. The interpretation of Appalachian culture without the involvement of those who make up the local culture has contributed to negative stereotyping of the area. As part of the purpose of the center and in the best interest of the park, the center can benefit residents of southern West Virginia by involving them fully in the center's programs. In turn, it can best serve visitors to the region by facilitating direct and meaningful contact with local residents.

Organizational Setup of Center. Staff would work with a variety of local networks that support the existing grassroots efforts and institutional bodies that promote cultural conservation. A distinction would be made between visitors with regional ties, made up mostly of local residents, and summer tourists. The primary method for maintaining the distinction between types of visitors would be to offer different types of programs in the winter and summer. During the winter, the focus would be on community use and services that involve local residents in the cultural events. Summer activities would involve local residents in interpreting the regional culture to national visitors.

Design of Center Facilities. The design of center facilities can symbolically express the mission of conserving and interpreting the region's folklife. Local residents have developed a design language that integrates standardized, technical design principles with the personalized influence of the local community that conveys the region's distinctive ambience. The inventive combination of locally made and recycled materials is one expression of this design language. When designing the facilities, the Park Service should take into consideration the cultural diversity of the region and the local history.

The facilities should also be designed to provide flexible space for the wide variety of proposed activities. The design should project a feeling of intimacy and an atmosphere that reflects the culture and heritage of New River and central Appalachia.

Regional Context

The mission of the center designates concentric zones of influence. At the epicenter is the New River Gorge, a geographical fact that has enormous cultural and economic significance in southern West Virginia. Around it, the first zone contains the counties nearest the gorge. A second zone includes communities in and around southern West Virginia. The third zone extends throughout Central Appalachia, encompassing most of West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, western North Carolina, and the eastern counties of Kentucky and Tennessee. The Center's primary responsibility is to conserve and interpret the folklife of the first two zones, drawing upon folklife from the broadest zone to enhance its interpretive plan.

Constituencies. The diverse constituencies of the area may be described most broadly as residents of the New River vicinity and visitors to the New River Gorge vicinity. The center would support the interests and efforts of four important networks within this constituency.

Family Networks and Communities of the New River Region. Family networks and communities of the region are the foundation of the traditional culture. Their perspectives should be well represented in the planning and operation of the center. Specific outreach programs should be provided for the participation of families and communities and should be structured to address their concerns, interests, and needs as regards traditional culture, as well as to document their folklife. Community activities that have taken place at Grandview over the years are also activities that would be supported by the center.

Individuals and Organizations Involved in Cultural Presentation, Documentation, and Interpretation. Individuals and organizations involved in cultural presentation, documentation, and interpretation may be found at local, state, and national levels. Examples of these levels of participation are the state division of culture and history, private and nonprofit groups representing the region, and local grassroots groups and individuals who volunteer their time and expertise. Active communication with cooperative scheduling and projects should be maintained with this network. Center facilities, staff, and especially the center's ongoing research and documentation activities would be an important resource for assistance to and collaboration with a variety of organizations.

Agencies and Organizations Working to Develop the Economy. A network of grassroots and government initiatives in economic development is already in place within the state. Although the center's activities would not focus on the economy of the region, it would maintain communication with other agencies and organizations, identifying and developing connections between that work and center's activities. The center's research and connections with cultural communities would be an important resource for this effort. These activities can enhance this network's ability to support local communities and traditional culture through economic and technical assistance.

Visitors to the New River Gorge National River. This constituency includes people who have families and shared history in the area who come back to visit, and visitors who have no previous ties or familiarity with the region. Those with ties in the area often visit cultural sites to recall and celebrate their cultural connections, as well as to develop in their children an understanding of and pride in their heritage. Those who are new to the area come to learn, to be entertained, and to have new cultural experiences.

The center can accommodate the needs of both groups by responding to their educational, social, and leisure interests. Developing programs that are multifaceted and participation-oriented can provide engaging experiences for a variety of visitor interests. By involving the residents of the area in the construction and presentation of programs, the Center would facilitate healthy cultural exchange and diminish the chances of negative stereotyping. Programs that are well-rounded, based on research, and thoroughly explained can contribute to greater understanding of traditional culture.

Center Operations

The operations of the center may be organized according to three principal activities: public programming, community partnership, and research. While each function would have specific responsibilities, all three activities would come into play in most programs. The objectives of the center are as follows:

Primary Objectives. A primary objective of the center would be to produce programs that present and interpret the folk culture of southern West Virginia and the broader Appalachian region to visitors, the communities of the region, and the general public. Another objective would be to assist and collaborate with other southern West Virginia organizations in interpreting the regional culture to visitors.

The programming year of the center would be divided into winter and summer seasons. During the winter, programming would focus on community use and service, supporting the conservation of traditional culture and enhancing opportunities for area residents to be involved in cultural events. These programs would include not only the full complement of cultural formats (concerts, exhibitions, workshops, theatrical productions, dance parties, and community gatherings) but also a large number of instructional formats (classes and technical assistance workshops). During the summer, as area residents are involved in the presentation of their culture, community activities may not occur as frequently at the center (except for the reunions), but versions of them, presented by residents and tailored more to visitors, would be offered. There would be more outdoor activities, more presentations in workshop and demonstration formats. During both seasons, center-planned events would also take place at other sites around the region.

Programs for first-time visitors would include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- Grandview Summer Festival
- summer concert series
- summer workshop and demonstration series
- tours program
- traditional dinners
- family Day at Grandview
- short daytime theater plays
- other participatory events (e.g., dance, storytelling, fiddle tune swaps and gospel sings)

Community-focused programs (most of which may also be attended by visitors) would include, but would not be limited, to the following:

- foodways program
  traditional gardening, agriculture, and food preparation education
  traditional foods-for-sale program, including tailgate produce market in season
  community dinners
- community Concert Series
  family folklife center, including Grandfolks Intergenerational Program
- apprenticeships
- New River Communities Exhibition Program
- dance parties and instruction sessions
- storytelling sessions
- other participatory events (e.g., fiddle tune swaps and gospel sings)
- swaps
- reunions

Community Partnership Objectives. Other objectives of the center would focus on the community and the its relationship with the center. Some of the programs and activities would be as follows:

- serve as liaison with New River communities
- facilitate the use of the heritage center for community activities
- provide technical and professional expertise to local individuals and organizations involved in projects pertaining to or affecting folk culture
- provide educational programs regarding West Virginia folk culture
- provide leadership and consultation on issues of advocacy for communities and their traditional culture
- represent the center and its constituents in economic development and educational networks

Research Objectives. The research objectives would be as follows:

- conduct and facilitate ongoing field research and documentation and coordinate special research and documentation projects in southern West Virginia and the broader Appalachian region

- maintain and provide access to a multimedia reference library on the folk culture of southern West Virginia and the Appalachian region, connecting to other archives and research programs on Appalachian culture

- maintain a media studio for recording oral history, storytelling, and traditional music

- organize scholarly and popular conferences, lectures, seminars, and workshops

- manage ongoing community folklife documentation projects and community exhibitions in the New River Communities Exhibition Gallery

- produce a quarterly television broadcast in conjunction with regional public television station

Facilities and Media

Retail Sales Area. Large space near the visitor contact station where craft products, books, posters, and video and audio tapes could be displayed and sold. This space needs to located near the center's administrative offices for staff support during busiest season.

Lodging. Overnight accommodations for 40-60 workshop/conference participants. These should include a communal gathering space, cooking facilities, dining area, and separate studio/study accommodations for workshop instructors/conference speakers.

Gallery Space. A flexible gallery space with adaptable lighting and display surfaces for traveling exhibits, special event exhibits, and a permanent display of the region's artwork. This gallery should have ample ceiling height to accommodate special constructions and sculpture. A smaller more intimate gallery for community exhibits, single artist shows, smaller media presentations, and displays would be an important feature of the space.

Auditorium. An auditorium with a conventional proscenium stage, 200 permanent raked seats, and additional space around the seating area to accommodate temporary seating and additional programming space. It should be equipped with flexible lighting, sound system, projection screen, and projection room.

Dance, Music, and Conference Hall. An open hall with a high ceiling, hardwood floors and provision for a portable platform stage at one end. One or more wall sections should be opened to porches, terraces, and views in the summer. The space should be capable of being divided into separate areas.

Indoor/Outdoor Workshop Spaces. Six to ten minimally sheltered, subdividable spaces where artisans/craftsmen can demonstrate/teach their work to small groups of visitors and/or workshop participants.

Festival Meadow. A large outdoor gathering space with accessible utilities. The meadow should be large enough to accommodate a minimum of 3,000 participants. Access to utilities should be arranged around the meadow to accommodate diverse configurations to handle gatherings of varying size and focus. Several portable stage and pad units should be designed for the meadow.

Amphitheater. The existing structure (or a modification) would be used for Theater West Virginia productions, locally produced drama, music and guest theater, and dance groups.

Research Facility. Media studio with basic equipment for 3/4 inch video production and eight-channel sound recording capability for oral history documentation and fully equipped darkroom (color/black & white). An archive/work space containing moderate storage capability for manuscripts, video and audio tapes; work space to accommodate several researchers; four media carrels with video and audio capability; computer stations with on-line services to other archives.

Kitchen and Dining Area. Fully-equipped and health department-certified kitchen and outdoor food preparation facilities. The dining area should be able to accommodate a minimum of 500 diners. These facilities would support the heritage food program as well as daily visitor needs.

Publications. An annual or semi-annual catalog of workshops and special events, weekly or monthly activity calendars, special event brochures, and press releases.

Staffing

NPS Overall Interpretive Program. The minimal personnel services necessary to operate the overall NPS interpretive program would be as follows:

Supervisory Park Ranger (1 GS-09)	$ 41,000
Environmental Education Specialist (1 GS-09)	41,000
Park Ranger, Interpreters-Permanent Full-time (5 GS-5/7)	154,000
Park Ranger, Interpreters-180 Day Seasonal (5 GS-5)	46,050

Cultural Heritage Center. The cultural heritage center would require additional staff. The following positions include a brief job description and estimated yearly salaries, including benefits.

Executive Director. Manages the cultural heritage center and supervises the staff. Responsible for preparing and tracking the budget. Explores alternative funding sources and prepares grant application packages — $50,000.

Folklife Specialist. Develops and conducts projects in research, documentation, and documentary production. Manages the research function of the center — $41,000.

Communications and Public Relations Specialist. Manages the public relations function of the center. Writes press releases, informational brochures, the center's catalog and other publications — $41,000.

Programs and Technical Assistant. Assists in the development and implementation of programs in cultural interpretation and research. Provides technical expertise in media documentation and production — $30,800.

Administrative Assistant. Assists the director and coordinates the flow of work between the director and staff. Provides support services, including word-processing and telephone and office reception — $30,800.

The following list summarizes total media, materials, staffing, and start-up costs for the interpretive program, including the proposed cultural heritage center.

Media	**$250,000**
Nonpersonal Interpretation	
Waysides/Bulletin Boards	120,000
Publications	15,000
Staffing	
Professional Staff	193,600
Basic Personal Services	305,000
Start-up Costs	
Vehicles	18,000
Program, Office	20,000
Total	**$898,650**

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Federal Agencies

Library of Congress
  American Folklife Center

Soil Conservation Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
  Fish and Wildlife Services

West Virginia State Agencies

Department of Commerce, Labor, and Environmental Resources
Department of Health
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Heritage
Department of Transportation
Division of Water Resources
Division of Culture and History
Marshall University
Public Lands Corporation
State Historic Preservation Office

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC MEETINGS

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AUGUST 1991

Two public meetings to discuss the issues and concerns associated with the development of a cultural heritage facility at Grandview with any interested citizens were held on August 21 and 22 in Glen Jean and Beckley, West Virginia, respectively. About 30 individuals attended the August 21 meeting held at 7 P.M. at park headquarters in Glen Jean. Information offered and concerns raised during discussions about the direction and scope of the Grandview development are summarized as follows:

- Family reunions at Grandview are an important part of the heritage.
- The cultural heritage center would be a positive economic benefit to the region.
- Accommodations should be provided for master folk artists.
- The cultural heritage center should have contact with similar folklife centers.
- The year-round facility should include traditional craft and performance demonstrations.
- West Virginia culture should be interpreted as a way of life.

Concerns about possible commercial development along Route 9 into the park were expressed, along with questions about the potential for new park boundaries and how more use might affect local residents.

About 70 individuals attended the public meeting on August 22, 1991, at 7 P.M. at the Beckley Hilton, Beckley, West Virginia. Summarized comments/questions included the following:

- Concern over detrimental impacts.
- The Park Service must realize the impact it would make on the area outside the boundary.
- All development should be sensitive to what currently occurs at Grandview.
- A memorial should be attributed to the CCC activities at Grandview.
- What might occur at this cultural center?
- Would there be admission charges?
- What authority does the Park Service have to move picnic shelters to Little Beaver State Park?
- What does the Park Service see as "central Appalachian culture"?

NATIONAL MINE ACADEMY MEETING OCTOBER 9, 1991

Experts from within the state on West Virginia regional culture were invited to the National Mine Academy from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. to discuss the preliminary scope of the cultural heritage center. Approximately 25 persons attended and participated in the discussions. Comments are summarized as follows:

- Present and past activities should be balanced, and the Park Service should look beyond folk traditions.
- Care should be taken not to "sanitize" history.
- The story of women and children should be incorporated.
- Program needs would include apprenticeships, workshops, and participant research.
- Evaluation and change must be built into the administration of the center.

NATIONAL MINE ACADEMY MEETING JANUARY 29, 1992

As a follow-up to the October meeting, experts on West Virginia culture were again invited to attend a meeting from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. to brief them on the status of the planning process and solicit input and comments regarding the direction of the programming for the center. Approximately 17 persons attended and participated in the discussions.

BECKLEY MEETING JANUARY 30, 1992

A public meeting was held at the Beckley Hilton in Beckley, West Virginia, at 7 P.M. to present areas that have been identified as potential development zones. Also, preliminary findings on the folklife study were presented by the American Folklife field coordinator. About 82 persons attended. The response to the development zone concept was generally positive.

NATIONAL MINE ACADEMY MEETING MAY 4, 1993

Experts from within the state of West Virginia on regional culture were invited to the National Mine Academy from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. to present and discuss the proposed development alternatives for the Grandview project. Approximately 17 people attended. Following presentation of the alternatives, the floor was opened to comments and concerns, which are summarized below. General group consensus was that alternative 4 seemed good: bigger is better; however, concern was expressed about defining the center's relationship to other activities.

- Covering amphitheater is important to increase attendance.
- The cost of covering the amphitheater.
- The financial stability of Theatre West Virginia.
- Research component is most important.
- Competition with similar programs is not a threat.
- The concept behind heritage foods is a good one.
- The cottage/lodge concept is important; artisans working at the center need these kinds of accommodations. Although artisans do not necessarily contribute to the surrounding economies, their efforts do contribute to the economy.
- Artisans need to be consulted during design.
- Interpretation needs to accurately portray history.
- Quality is key.
- The project should network with other development within national river.
- With alternative 5, everyone is looking for a way to "piggyback" onto the cultural heritage center and looking to the National Park Service to provide leadership without taking over regional cultural heritage activities.

Questions regarding possible link to the river from this location and the kinds of crafts to be showcased at the center were also raised.

BECKLEY MEETING - MAY 5, 1993

A public meeting was held at the Beckley Hotel in Beckley, West Virginia, at 7 P.M. to present the purposed development alternatives and review the status of the project. About 45 persons attended. The following ccomments were presented at the meeting.

- Any changes in the flow of traffic onto the site that would reroute traffic closer to the park boundary and the houses to the immediate south.
- The concentrated development in alternatives 4 and 5 that occurs on the south side of the bowl area too close to the neighboring houses.
- The definition of this center's relationship to other activities.

Questions were raised regarding

- projected construction costs
- the number of available jobs
- the availability of money for the project
- why Festival Meadow meadow is away from other development
- programming/activities being considered
- the intent of the Tourism Authority activity at the Beckley Service Center and if it would complement the center
- what would happen to traffic and on Route 9 and who would be responsible
- the change in concept — thought Grandview would be more of an Appalachian village/homestead

Superintendent Kennedy was also asked to define the current preferred alternative.

APPENDIX B: GRANDVIEW CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The following is the executive summary and background for the June 1992 American Folklife Center Study. A copy of the full report can be obtained from the New River Gorge National River or the Denver Service Center, Technical Information Branch, Denver, Colorado.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The cultural heritage center planned for the Grandview site within the New River Gorge National River represents a bold and innovative approach to cultural programming. The proposed mission of the Center distills the issues and concepts which would underpin the new Center's broad range of cultural activities:

1) To conserve and interpret the folklife of communities along the New River Gorge National River and throughout southern West Virginia

2) To interpret the folklife of Central Appalachia

This mission statement implies concentric circles or responsibility for the Center: a responsibility for both interpretation and cultural conservation in the New River area and the southern West Virginia region, and a broader responsibility for interpretation of the central Appalachian region.

Such a Center may require additional legislation, and certainly would require a base in federal appropriations. At the same time it would draw in revenues and actively seek funding from other governmental and private sources. It would have a strong professional staff, would provide year-round programming, and would take an active part in the larger cultural life of the region. It would bring together area residents and visitors from afar, and the area residents would function not only as presenters and demonstrators for the visitors, but also as cultural consumers of the Center's programming. The programming itself would feature folklife--those cultural traditions which embody the community life and values of the region. But it would reveal the folklife of southern West Virginia as surprisingly diverse and surprisingly contemporary and dynamic.

A center which both conserves and interprets, and which explores new ways to bring together local residents and visitors, must adopt partnerships as its underlying mode of operation: partnership with the people of the region in the collaborative enterprise of presenting themselves to the wider world; partnership with the New River Gorge National River in fulfilling its mission; partnership among federal, state, and local government and the private sector in accomplishing the objectives of the Center; and finally, a delicate but potentially powerful partnership between economic development and cultural conservation in shaping the future of southern West Virginia.

BACKGROUND

The New River Gorge Folklife Project

Project History

In preparation for the cultural heritage center at New River Gorge National River, the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, in cooperation with the Eastern Planning Team of the National Park Service's Denver Service Center, has been conducting a preliminary field survey of folklife and related resources in the vicinity of the New River Gorge in southern West Virginia. The Center team consists of Mary Hufford, project director; Rita Moonsammy, field coordinator; Dillion Bustin, fieldworker (music, dance, and other performance genres); Karen Hudson, fieldworker (vernacular architecture and landscapes); Gregory Jenkins, research assistant; and Charles Bean, archivist.

Planning for the preliminary field survey began in August 1991, and in October the National Park Service convened a group of advisors involved with the administration of cultural resources in the region. The survey itself began in December. The advisory group, National Park Service representatives, and the Folklife Center team met again in January 1992 to review the project's progress. The preliminary survey would continue through May.

Project Goals

The purpose of the survey is to provide a body of research to address two needs: 1) design concepts for facilities at the proposed cultural heritage center; and 2) development of programs and products for the center's opening in 1995.

Since the idea of building a cultural heritage center at Grandview was motivated by a desire "to help the people of southern West Virginia," we have organized our survey around two key questions:

1) How are the people of southern West Virginia already helping themselves in the cultural terms?

2) How can the National Park Service, through a cultural heritage center at Grandview, complement, support, and enhance their efforts?

To answer these questions, the team has gathered information on existing cultural conservation and economic development initiatives at local, state, and regional levels. Constituting the advisory group has proven an effective way to gather and structure state and local input in the course of planning. The Folklife Center team has consulted with many of the members of the advisory group, interviewing many of them in depth to gain an understanding of institutional efforts to meet the cultural needs of the region and the array of perspectives on cultural identify.

We have also surveyed communities in three counties located along the New River Gorge National River--Raleigh, Fayette, and Summers--to learn about grassroots cultural initiatives and concerns. Traditional expressions of community life and values there span a broad spectrum, including festivals and gatherings, vernacular architecture and landscapes, occupational skills and customs, music, dance, foodways, narrative, and craft. The topics we covered in interviews with residents include family reunions, farming, coal mining, hunting, fishing, timbering, gathering, gardening, railroading, domestic productions, foodways, community events, religion, vernacular architecture, and music and dance. While we were to some extent able to complement such preliminary interviews with direct observation of traditional activities and events, further fieldwork is necessary to gain a more complete picture of traditional life in the New River Gorge vicinity.

Survey Findings

Our research is yielding a picture of a wide range of cultural and economic initiatives and a strong network within which the Center might operate. Cultural conservation initiatives range from grassroots efforts such as family reunions, home museums, and the monthly meetings of the Fayette County Singing Convention, to institutional efforts such as the programs of the Youth Museum of Southern West Virginia and the state's Division of Culture and History (shown in appendix C of the survey.) Economic development initiatives include the efforts of individuals to serve tourists in such ways as offering bed-and-breakfast accommodations in their homes; community-based efforts such as county quilting cooperatives; and statewide programs such as InterArts, the coalition of state-level agencies working to develop crafts production and marketing. (shown in appendix D of the survey.)

We would offer a more descriptive account of the region's culture in a final report on the project. Perhaps what is most striking about the culture in this area of Southern West Virginia is its diversity. This cultural diversity is expressed not only in ethnic terms, but along religious, occupational, and regional parameters as well. Indeed, our recordings to date suggest subregional variations in ways of speaking which would be interesting to explore further. The annual calendar of events (shown in appendix B of the survey) recommends programming that would accommodate such diversity. Regularly scheduled events focusing on food, music, dance, and narrative may be refined to focus on and celebrate ethnic, religious, occupational, and regional diversity. The final report on the project would develop some of the interpretive possibilities further.

The emerging picture makes it clear that the Grandview Cultural Heritage Center has an important role to play; it can contribute to economic and community development by supporting the region's traditional culture, both by showcasing it to visitors, and by supporting emerging grassroots and institutional initiatives. More specifically, it can focus on the living traditions of the area's communities, for much institutional and individual attention is already devoted to historical forms of tradition in West Virginia, but little attention is paid to folklife as a living and continually emerging body of vernacular tradition.

KEY CULTURAL ISSUES

Through our participation in discussions, meetings, and public hearings over the past eight months, we have identified four key ares of cultural concern:

1)Economic development
2)Local involvement and partnerships
3)Public images
4)Cultural change and continuity

1)Economic Development

Underlying the proposal to build a cultural heritage center at Grandview is the assumption that cultural tourism would fuel economic development in the region. While many of the people we interviewed support the cultivation of tourism as an avenue of economic development, they are uneasy about the trade-offs they may need to make. They worry that valued aspects of community life and traditional culture would be lost. They wonder whether the real fiscal beneficiaries would be local people or national corporate interests. Planning should therefore be based on solid understanding of the relationship between the region's culture and its economy, and should proceed with thorough consideration of how tourism would impact on the region's traditional culture.

Like other regions in the country experiencing industrial decline, southern West Virginia is on the brink of cultural change. Industrial pursuits that have traditionally provided not only an economic base but also a context for cultural identity and folkways, such as coal mining and agriculture, are deeply diminished. Economic stress has eroded both communities and cultural self-image. New industries, especially tourism, may bring jobs and dollars to the region, but may also put great pressure on the traditions and values of communities that have been intact for many generations. This is a source of great concern to West Virginians. Yet they repeatedly expressed to us a preference for remaining in the region despite the economic disadvantages, which shows how highly they value their culture relative to economic prosperity. While they want to rebuild the economy and to create jobs that would allow their children to live and work in the state, they also want to retain the most valuable and meaningful aspects of their lifestyle, culture, and environment. The Grandview cultural heritage center can support these goals.

Culture should be the Grandview's center's central focus and the basis for its relationship to economic development efforts. The Center should seek to integrate its work with the work of the many regional organizations and businesses already developing economic opportunities related, both explicitly and tacitly, to cultural activities. Examples include the West Virginia Turnpike Authority Conservation and Development Area, Inc. Offering technical support and programming opportunities to these organizations would in the long run do as much to support both culture and economy as the direct economic benefits of the Center's own programs.

2) Local Involvement and Partnerships

Related to the kinds of employment opportunities the Center might offer is the second issue, that of local involvement and partnerships. Repeatedly, local residents observed that federal project in the state do not necessarily mean more jobs for the local people, and that local people get mainly the lower-paying service and maintenance jobs at federal installations, while people from other states get the professional positions. In order to address this concern, the Center should offer training programs in the skills that are necessary for employment there. Moreover, it can collaborate with local institutions of higher learning in offering continuing education and mentoring programs that assist people in acquiring professional accreditation and college degrees in relevant areas. Such courses can also help people prepare for other jobs that would be created by the development of tourism.

As regards partnerships, the Center should seek to support, rather than supplant, the efforts of the broad network of individuals and organizations involved in cultural interpretation and presentation. These groups have already created forms and channels to provide cultural services in the region. Rather than duplicating programming and drawing off markets that other organizations have successfully developed, the Center should create new programs that expand the complex of cultural service. This strategy would also contribute to the economic benefit of those organizations and the region overall.

For example, much programming in the region focuses on traditional crafts, music, and storytelling (Vandalia Days), revived arts and skills (Augusta Heritage Center), and pioneer heritage (The Youth Museum), as well as fine arts. A widespread and abiding interest in mountain heritage translates into public television programming, presentations at the New River Gorge Symposium, and other events. In the context of these activities, the Center would be in a position to develop programming uniquely focused on contemporary cultural concerns and folklife (family folklife, gardening, hunting, music, dance, food), while drawing upon and supporting related efforts by sister organizations.

3) Control of Public Images

The third key cultural issue is the control of cultural images. Many residents reacted strongly against the appearance of the term "Appalachian" in names proposed for the Center because of the images the term conjures up. The powerful grip these images have on the national imagination was a source of frustration to project advisors, who reported that when they assisted prominent national newspapers and magazines in preparing feature stories on the region, showing them the spectrum of class and culture here, the press nevertheless published the mythic images. Fieldworker Karen Hudson identified the two most tenacious images as "the culture of poverty" and "the forgotten frontier."

Repeatedly, residents and advisors asserted that the Center should enhance the pride people already take in their West Virginia and Allegheny Mountain heritage. In order to resist the power of mythic public images, the Center would have to base its programs on ongoing research and documentation of the region's cultural diversity and dynamism, and it must find ways to interpret that diversity and dynamism to the public, both to visitors and through the national media.

4) Cultural Change and Continuity

The fourth key cultural issue is the strong desire of local residence to receive and to pass on their traditional cultural values. To be sure, forms for doing so survive by changing with the times. No less than the companies that developed timber and coal, the Grandview center represents an act of intervention. By placing itself at the service of local communities, however, it can assist their efforts to develop viable forms and contexts in which community life and values may flourish.

KEY CULTURAL VALUES

Family, Community and Place

Local residents repeatedly expressed pride in their staying power over many generations, outmigration and absentee landlords notwithstanding. They drew our attention to the high quality of community life, the vigorous cultivation of family ties, and the strength of their attachments to the place, all of which they see as offsetting the disadvantages of a chronically troubled economy. While the cultural values of family, community, and place might be expressed almost anywhere else, they are expressed and defended in distinctive ways in southern West Virginia.

Resourcefulness, Versatility, and Independence

In the expression and defense of these values, we find related emphases on resourcefulness, versatility, and independence. The capacity to piece together from scraps of time, experience, and materials at hand a dwelling place, a family history, or a livelihood is a source of pride and delight for people here. It is fueled by an equal pride in independence, even when in the service of community. Because these values are seen as being under siege throughout America, they form a strong focal point for the mission of a center that supports a regional culture while it also serves a national audience.

APPENDIX C: SPECIES AND HABITAT TYPES IN GRANDVIEW

The following table presents a list of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals observed in nine habitat types at Grandview. Habitat types included mixed deciduous forest (MDF), open forest (OF), grassy areas (G), rock outcrops (RO), wetlands (W), creeks (C), seeps (S), pond (P), and road puddles (RP).

SPECIES	MDF	OF	G	RO	W	C	S	P	RP
Salamanders									
A.maculatum								X	
V. viridescens								X	
D. fuscus						X			
D. monticola						X			
D. ochrophaeus	X					X			
P. cinereus	X								
P. glutinosus	X								
P kentucki	X			X					
H. scutatum					X				
G. porphyriticus						X	X		
A. aeneus				X					
Toads/Frogs									
B. americanus								X	X
P. crucifer								X	X
H. chrysoscelis								X	X
R. c. melanota								X	
R. palustris								X	
R. sylvatica								X	
Turtles									
C. serpentina								X	
T. carolina	X	X	X						
Lizards									
Snakes									
N. sipedon									

SPECIES	**MDF**	**OF**	**G**	**RO**	**W**	**C**	**S**	**P**	**RP**
Rodents									
S. cinereus	**X**	**X**	**X**						
T. striatus	**X**	**X**							
P. maniculatus	**X**	**X**							
P. leucopus	**X**	**X**							
S. cooperi			**X**		**X**				
S. fumeus	**X**	**X**	**X**						
S. DISPAR	**X**	**X**			**X**				
N. insignis	**X**	**X**			**X**				

APPENDIX D: PHILOSOPHY FOR DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

America's national parks are more than special or spectacular pieces of landscape; they are a shared precious part of our national heritage. For more than three-quarters of a century — the lifetime of most of us — the National Park Service has held a dual responsibility to conserve the resources of the parks and to provide for their enjoyment by the American people. But increasing numbers of visitors and the stresses of the modern world are turning that dual mission into a losing battle. Today, many distinguishing features and resources of the national parks are in serious jeopardy.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The demands of planning for NPS units are changing rapidly. Planning for parks must consider the sustainability of our actions within the cultural and ecological context of the larger region. As a result of the Vail Symposium and the sustainable design initiative, the National Park Service has accepted the challenge of environmental leadership in the nation. As with other projects, this development concept plan offers the Park Service the opportunity to assume a leadership role by example. Through the development concept plan for the Grandview area of New River Gorge National River negative environmental impacts within the park would be reduced and biodiversity through ecologically sensitive use would be maintained, which would help park neighbors foster sustainable local communities and economies.

OVERVIEW OF GRANDVIEW

Grandview is a spectacular resource that demands sensitive design practices. Family reunions, picnics, outdoor theater performances, and trail walks occur in a place where the land and the people come together. Preserving the native forest habitat, while interacting with and exploring the region's past and present culture, will require a delicate balancing act.

The topography and habitat at Grandview reflects the regional landscape. Dense vegetation covers the long narrow hollows and corresponding ridges. Curving roads tunnel through the deep forest, bridging streams and often opening into small clearings. It is recognized that cultural exchange and shared experience take place within a 10-foot area so that people can have a reasonable conversational exchange. Although areas for larger audiences are available, the main format would be small nodes as gathering areas — a ring of chairs, a group of benches, a porch, a clearing, or a fire ring. These simple elements would become stages for interaction and exchange.

Depression-Era Influence

In reference to the early depression-era work within the state and reflected at Grandview, numerous opportunities existed for the use of native materials. This era brought the crafted detail of stone curbing, stairs, and the wood bollards in parking areas. Vegetation hugs the edges of paving and the narrow roadways coincide with the terrain, while the forest canopy closes overhead. Much of what defers to topography was constructed without the aid of heavy equipment, and both the type and the scale are in tune with the environment.

It is of utmost importance that the design respects the forest and the terrain. It should not be viewed as a constraint but rather as a remarkable opportunity to unite the physical elements with the environment while minimizing the impacts.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Utilities

To adhere to aesthetic concerns and a commitment to work within already disturbed areas on the site, powerlines, waterlines, and sewerlines would be placed beneath the road surfaces, allowing for a minimal disturbance to the natural resources.

Water Use

Because water is a valued resource, water use in the proposed facilities at Grandview would be accommodated by low-flow plumbing fixtures. Savings associated with reduced water consumption in terms of supply and wastewater treatment will be substantial.

Stormwater Management

Every effort will be made during development of the cultural heritage center at Grandview to retain the natural patterns of hydrology on this site. The existing natural drainage basins would not to be rerouted or disturbed, and the natural drainage patterns in the vicinity south of the amphitheater would be restored. In situations where it is observed that excessive erosion is occurring, methods of vegetative stabilization should be employed under the direction of people qualified in the restorative techniques of bio-engineering. (This expressly cautions against the standard use of conduits, rip-rap and gabions to offset excessive runoff.)

The creation of hard surfaces, such as roads, parking lots, and compacted soils of turfed areas, inevitably increases both the volume and the velocity of stormwater runoff. Every effort should be made to contain runoff, recharging it to the groundwater and avoiding the destruction of streambanks and increased erosion.

Permeable no-fines asphalt should be used in parking areas to allow stormwater to percolate into coarse, aggregate, detention basins beneath the pavement as a means to recharge groundwater. This would prevent excessive streambank undercut and erosion, curtailing sedimentation that protects water quality.

Forest Walkways

Both indoors and outdoors, intimate gathering places offer seating. Development at Grandview will create a series of paths and elevated walks just off the forest floor that are punctuated by room-size nodes such as decks and porches.

Rather than altering topography, the terrain will be explored by elevating walkways and structures on pilings. Incorporated in such a design will be the need to minimize soil compaction, retaining the fragile forest floor and natural drainage patterns.

Bridges

Ridgetops, steep slopes, and drainage basins are the primary surface features of landform on the site. At Grandview, numerous swales and small streambeds cross under roads. Bridges are a distinct element in the cultural landscape and offer the opportunity to incorporate wood or stonework, skills the heritage center might focus on.

With sensitive treatment and a conscious effort to restore the natural drainage to disturbed areas of Grandview, the careful construction of bridges could highlight rather than realign or conceal this integral component of the environment.

Porches

The porch is a feature that offers entry — a place to pause and watch the comings and goings of all who pass. Porches are common to this region and used often in the structures at Grandview. Porches are outdoor rooms that provide close contact with the surrounding habitat. The forest canopy, understory, and groundcover would be close in on all sides.

The built environment will be simple, providing gathering spots with a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces. The structures with porches and their interconnecting network of decks, paths, and boardwalks would be set on pilings off the forest floor.

The Center Complex

Numerous small- to medium-sized simple woodframe structures are organized into a network of gathering places by a series of wood and stone walkways. The entire complex is raised off the forest floor on fixed-point supports. The use of natural materials, consistent with the character of this site, represent the regional landscape.

Elements of local and regional architecture will contribute thematic components, referring to the simple, one-story coal company house, a company store, or church. Programs are expected to evolve and change, both seasonally and yearly. The facilities must offer a flexibility that can accommodate multiple uses.

The design and function of facilities at the center need to evolve in conjunction with the cultural heritage center's staff, using local and regional skills and emphasizing an on-site, hands-on approach to siting and construction.

Along the Way

Stone drinking fountains, similar to those found in the original depression-era areas of the site, will be constructed along the network of boardwalks. To successfully connect places, simple provisions for rest and water would allow for extended walks.

Stone drinking fountains, similar to those found in the original CCC areas of the site, should be constructed along the network of boardwalks. Seating should be an essential part of the boardwalk to offer impromptu places for rest and gatherings.

Ravines

Over time, erosion has carved deep, narrow hollows throughout the region. Flowing into the New River, many small streams cut into the Allegheny Plateau, leaving the more resistant sandstone along the ridges. These hollows are characterized by steep and densely vegetated slopes. Fern and lichen cling to rock outcroppings, and moss carpets the forest floor beneath the rhododendron thickets. The soft dark green lace of hemlock trees grows among the understorys deep shade. The sound of running water and the fleeting glimpse of a salamander scurrying for cover shows the values this landscape carries.

These unique and remarkable places are to be preserved. Their value, within the larger context of the urban east coast, cannot be overemphasized. Sites such as these in Grandview would be protected.

All existing natural drainage patterns will be preserved, taking every necessary measure to maintain the existing hydrological structure on this site.

All previously disturbed and altered stream corridors would be restored and revegetated.

A 100-foot buffer will be maintained between all streambeds and the new construction of roads, parking lots, buildings, sewage treatment, and storage areas.

New construction of buildings, parking lots, or sewage treatment will be restricted within the sensitive zones.

Selected, low-impact development will be restricted to limited pedestrian access along raised boardwalks; and only in conjunction with visitor education and interpretation which promotes the awareness of this habitat.

Slopes of 10%

Along the edges of the ridgetops, steep rocky slopes descend into narrow drainage basins. This transitional environment contains dry upland Eastern hardwoods (with tall cathedral-like canopies of hickory, tulip poplar, beech, and black cherry), which give way to the shaded moist habitats in the hollows. It is along this transition zone, coincident with the shadier northern slopes, that large stands of rhododendron are found, creating dense, nearly impenetrable thickets. Any intervention along the slopes at the ridge crests should be minimal.

Particular concern and care is recommended in the design of access into these transition zones. Development should be restricted to carefully selected pedestrian routes, serving to connect the visitor from ridgetop to ridgetop along elevated fixed-point boardwalks. The routes must be designed and placed with the utmost care.

Elevated boardwalks would intersect the forest, allowing the visitor to explore the upper and middle canopies, descending through vertical habitats to the forest floor while never actually encountering the fragile layer of duff.

As the slopes break away from the flatter ridgetops, opportunities for distant views occur along the ridges to the north and east of this site. Selected points would be chosen and partially cleared to open such vistas.

All intervention into the forest habitat at Grandview must be sited in the field and be responsive to the natural environment.

Where pedestrian intervention is brought into regions of steep slopes via fixed-point, elevated boardwalks, construction should rely on manual labor, in conjunction with an impact monitoring program. The use of heavy equipment would be limited in these regions.

Ridgetops

Accessibility in West Virginia has never been easy. Settlement is spread along slender corridors defined by topography in the steep river valleys and the upland ridgetops.

The approach to Grandview along state highway 9 passes small farms, orchards, pastureland, and a series of recently constructed single family suburban homes. This ridge eventually tapers into a narrow finger of rocky forested land (Grandview) patterned with numerous deep swales that descend to the New River over 1,200 feet below. Historically, the access to Grandview, which was dictated by the topography, followed the upland ridge. The existing and proposed areas of development would continue to take advantage of the more accessible terrain along the flatter ridgetops.

All excavation will be kept to an absolute minimum and limited to situations where access to roads (where water, sewage, and power are buried) and parking areas necessitate connections to the primary existing north/south road.

All siting for new facilities will be finalized on site, examining specific valued elements in the landscape (such as rock outcroppings, mature trees, stands of fern or rhododendron). Buildings should be small in scale, clustered, and connected by elevated boardwalks. The entire development is set up off the forest floor on fixed-point supports.

Seeps and headwater streams will be preserved and incorporated into the overall design. Draining, realigning, or in any manner disrupting the natural flow of water on this site is unnecessary. It would needlessly interfere with the hydrologic system of this site. This system ultimately connects to the New River watershed, which the park is committed to protecting.

With careful siting and additional planting, native vegetation will be used to assert visual buffers where areas of seclusion and privacy are desired.

Native vegetation will abut and hug all buildings, walkways, roads, and parking areas.

Forests

Mature, second-growth stands of eastern hardwoods grow in this area (hickories; red, white, burr, and chestnut oaks; tulip poplars; American beeches; black gums; black birches; and remnant populations of American chestnut saplings). Interspersed with white pine, the area has been reestablished after extensive logging at the turn of this century, and the forest floor is thriving again with spring beauties, wood leeks, fern, ground pine, violets, beneath the understory stands of mountain laurel, dogwood, sourwood, redbud, spice bush, striped maple, serviceberry and populations of American chestnut saplings.

Forests such as these are already museums by virtue of their increasing scarcity and decline throughout the eastern United States. In recognition of this, the core activities associated with the heritage center would be limited in scale and directed to those areas in the southern portion of the site where existing roads and parking lots access the ridgetops. Because these areas would be in disturbed sites, further environmental damage would be minimized.

With strict guidelines for both design and construction, preservation of the forest canopy and the fragile duff layer of the forest floor would be ensured. The areas shown within the development zones delineate accessible, flatter ridgetop habitat. Alternatives 2-5 explore development options confined to the upland ridges.

Surface grading would be minimized; it eliminates the topological detail of the site and profoundly disturbs the entire understory and duff layer, destroying the foundation that supports the forest.

Every effort should be made to keep the forest canopy intact because it provides protection and food for the plant and animal communities that live within and below it. It also significantly prevents erosion.

The Pond

The pond at Grandview is a man-made feature. An earthen dam built in the 1960s retains stream water, draining the southern most section of Grandview and an adjacent pastureland. In the past 30 years, substantial siltation and an increase of water-tolerant species have altered this site considerably. Today, numerous aquatic plants such as alder, cattails, willows, and rushes line the banks providing a viable wetland habitat.

In relation to the landscape, the pond stands in contrast to Grandview's shaded habitats. The shoreline is, for the most part, quite steep, though several sections are level and marshy. It is a place of serenity and peace, contemplative and relaxing.

As with all regions at Grandview where moist conditions prevail, and where water quality, hydrology, and steep slopes are concerns, the pond and its environment is a sensitive area.

Intervention coincides with proposed nature walks and field studies designed to acquaint visitors to the unique diversity of wetland habitat. Activity around the site would be restricted.

Several potential developmental impacts may affect this habitat. Approximately 150 feet to the east of the pond and 30 feet above lies an old roadbed. Under alternative 5 and possibly alternative 4, this roadbed would be resurfaced and open to vehicular traffic, used only during periods of heavy visitation. On the ridge to the north, under alternative 4, a cluster of rustic cottages would offer accommodations affiliated with the center's programming. Above and to the east of the old road bed, under alternatives 3, 4, and 5, the Festival meadow would host center activities.

Because the intent is to restrict direct access to this sensitive area, vegetative screening is recommended to limit interaction except in those areas designated. A natural vegetative buffer of 150 feet (no turf) would be maintained between this wetland and all development.

The Rim

A flagstone path winds through a corridor of mature pines and rhododendrons leading you to the main overlook. The view opens to the horizon, a beautiful panorama of blue-green mountain ridges cut deeply by the New River, over 1,000 feet below. Just a few feet away, the trail slips under the overhanging cliffs, where bracket fern, lichen, moss, and rhododendron thrive. Beyond these cliffs is a clearing where a family may gather or a lighthearted softball game can be played.

Unfortunately, tree roots are being exposed and the bare soil is eroding. There are not enough picnic tables to go around for all the people that gather here. Grandview is a favorite place and is showing the effects of overuse.

This region of Grandview is a site of great local and regional importance. For decades family reunions have taken place here. As a valued cultural resource, the current activities would continue and would not be removed by either facilities or programs as a result of the construction of the cultural heritage center.

The challenge and the task for design and development in this area would be to restore and preserve this valued landscape. Overuse along the cliff edge now jeopardizes the resource.

The Recreation Area

In the recreation area, where soil compaction, turf destruction, and consequent erosion is occurring, a turf management program is required. Turf management strategies employing the use of polycultures of perennial native grasses might be explored in conjunction with stabilized turf.

Vegetative buffering would be reinforced and emphasized, creating off-limit zones between areas of intensive activity and the rim walks and overlooks. Design and resource management must coordinate efforts to retain yet segregate the two.

Picnic area 1, the tunnels, the Canyon Rim trail, the Castle Rock trail, and the overlooks provide numerous instances of stonework such as flagstone paths and stone stairs. There are also sections of the trails where elevated wooden boardwalks take the visitor along the steep canyonside terrain. It is recommended that the use of these permeable hardened surfaces, both wood and stone, be extended throughout the system of pedestrian access routes, including picnic spots that alleviate damage to the fragile forest.

CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Overview

All intervention on this site must be discreet and carefully measured during the course of construction. The value of the natural habitat is not to be sacrificed or compromised to satisfy either the program or the design.

The site analysis and evaluation of Grandview has set forth general areas of potential development. The overall assessment of both natural and cultural resources directs development to areas previously disturbed and to accessible flat ridgetops in the drier upland hardwood forest. Steep slopes, drainage basins, and wetlands, which contain some of the most sensitive habitats at Grandview, are off limits to all development. Selected, elevated boardwalks are possible within the sensitive zones, providing management can supervise consistent site-monitoring and offer educational programs.

In addition to the valued natural components of this site, areas where traditional activity occurs are considered a cultural value and should be preserved.

However, because it is not possible to determine in advance the extent of developmental impact to a site, it is imperative that an on-going re-evaluation process occur throughout the construction phase. This is to be based on identified indicators for resource quality, the established limits of acceptable change, and the perceived model.

All construction must proceed on the premise that the environment would remain as intact as possible. Phasing of development would provide a mechanism for monitoring development impact and would facilitate the initiation of subsequent responses to accommodate any necessary changes between construction phases.

The nature of this task implies that site-specific details in design are carried out in the field. To take advantage of field detail, a rock outcrop, an interesting or unusual tree trunk, or a bed of ground pine or fern, tactical segments of the design process must be encouraged on site during the course of construction.

On-site adjustments are critical, and skilled construction supervisors are essential.

Methods and Materials

An in-depth, site-sensitive construction manual should be developed that sets forth guidelines for the proposed construction process that would occur at Grandview. It would be compiled by people with technical skills in the areas of resource management, ecology, stormwater management, bioengineering, and regional artisans with knowledge of native materials and vernacular construction methods. These directives would be incorporated into all contractual agreements involving the construction of facilities at Grandview.

It is imperative that for construction to proceed with the utmost consideration of this forested site, that all workers, from supervisory positions to laborers, have an understanding of this habitat and are included in the effort to protect the soils, vegetation, and natural drainage patterns. A directive to provide this knowledge to all those involved will lead to innovative on-site solutions in problematic situations.

Development should be phased to advance construction outward from a materials storage area and restrict construction access routes of heavy equipment to existing road beds and profoundly disturbed areas of the site. This is imperative for construction of roads, parking areas, sewage treatment plant and utility corridors or any other construction tasks that are likely to involve large equipment.

Erosion is potentially a serious problem at Grandview, especially during construction when bare soil is likely to be exposed. Slopes in every direction are steep and high volume runoff, loaded with particulate matter will endanger water quality downstream of construction and undercut the streambanks during flood conditions. All construction practices must follow a strict and site-specific erosion and sedimentation plan based on state-of-the-art information. This is to be above and beyond what may or may not satisfy existing regulations.

Unnecessary removal of vegetation and topsoil will be avoided, and stream channels that provide drainage would not be disturbed.Do not disturb stream channels that provide drainage.

Undue disturbance to the environment adjacent to work areas would be avoided.

Materials that are compatible and consistent with the design theme established for Grandview will be used. Stone quarried from bedrock would be selected that is the same strata as much of the prominently exposed rock outcroppings throughout the site; brick or tile made locally from native clays found in the architecture of the surrounding area and native wood will all be used as much as possible.

The construction process should include the conscientious retrieval and processing of the mentioned materials such that the extraction and the consequent technical expertise of cutting stone, milling lumber, and firing brick kilns is explored and interpreted.

The construction of the cultural heritage center could feature regional skills involving local craftspersons whose knowledge of such crafts as stonework and woodworking would actually evolve

with the center's program, conceivably enlisting a combination of workshops and apprenticeships, augmented by a CCC type work corps (offering employment and training). All work would be documented photographically, which in itself will be a future resource and repository for a rapidly disappearing working knowledge of natural materials that today's construction methods have abandoned. The advantages go beyond cultural conservation when considering the vastly reduced impact on the site in terms of construction damage.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives will be incorporated into the design/construction guidelines. The theories and management of sustainable developments need to start long before construction begins. It is vital that resources are monitored and adjustments made in design and construction before the damage is done.

Establish representative habitat plots, carefully monitored and off-limits to the general public.

Incorporate an ongoing impact assessment regimen for ravine habitat and follow through with compensatory management strategies.

Any intervention into the forest habitat at Grandview must be coordinated with interpretive programs. These programs need be designed to bring the given habitat into focus in such a way that understanding generates a respect and concern for the life that abides there.

In the disturbed areas of the site, particularly within the already developed southern third of Grandview, initiate vegetative management techniques that will eliminate invasive species.

Any intervention at Grandview would be accompanied by interpretive information, such that the visitor may come to understand this habitat and comprehend the measures taken to ensure its preservation.

A strict regimen of on-site monitoring, including water quality assessment, must be initiated before construction, and obtaining adequate baseline data is critical.

Immediately establish an on-going site impact monitoring program backed by a strong compensatory management program that is empowered to initiate corrective measures. For example, restricting or redirecting and rotating use, temporal scheduling, changes in the construction phases, and initiating revegetation programs. The programs should begin before the onset of construction and follow through to a future long-term resource management program.

CONCLUSION

Design/construction guidelines will be developed early in the design process. The purpose of these guidelines will be to establish an approach to design incorporating techniques for achieving sustainability, to outline a basic design theme for all project elements, and to begin a catalog of design decisions that will be modified and will grow as the center develops. These guidelines are essential for an area that may develop gradually over many years and be shaped by numerous individuals.

APPENDIX E: AREAS AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION

The following table shows the amount of area in square acres (ac), square feet (sf), square yards (yd), and linear feet (lf) affected by construction and reconstruction activities.

Development Item	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Dump site clean-up	1.5 ac	1.5 ac	1.5 ac	1.5 ac
Clearing/grubbing	5.5 ac	5.5 ac	13 ac	6 ac
Staff housing Poll building	2,350 sf 400 sf	2,350 sf 400 sf	2,350 sf 400 sf	2,350 sf 400 sf
Visitor contact station	3,000 sf			
Ranger fire cache Covered parking	1,800 sf 3,600 sf	1,800 sf 3,600 sf	1,800 sf 3,600 sf	1,800 sf 3,600 sf
Maintenance shop	5,400 to 10,000 sf	5,400 to 10,000 sf	5,400 to 10,000 sf	5,400 sf to 10,000 sf
Ranger offices Flammable storage	1,750 sf 216 sf	1,750 sf 216 sf	1,750 sf 216 sf	1,750 sf 216 sf
Sewage treatment Lab Facility	300 sf 8,000 sf	300 sf 8,000 sf	300 sf 8,000 sf	300 sf 8,000 sf
Security fence	750 lf	750 lf	750 lf	750 lf
Utility corridor burial	9,000 lf	9,000 lf	9,000 lf	9,000 lf
Base grading	17,650 yd	20,650 yd	39,350 yd	53,900 yd
Road obliteration/restoration	14,700 yd	52,000 yd	37,200 yd	26,200 yd
New asphalt road construction	7,800 yd	17,200 yd	29,900 yd	30,500 yd
Gravel surface for new maintenance area	2,500 yd	2,500 yd	2,500 yd	2,500 yd
Gravel base/surface length of service road between new maintenance area and river	30,000 yd	30,000 yd	30,000 yd	30,000 yd
Paved areas	4,800 yd	4,800 yd	4,800 yd	4,800 yd
Research facility		5,250 sf	5,250 sf	3,600 sf
Orientation building		3,000 sf	5,490 sf	4,975 sf
Sales/demonstration building		2,800 sf	4,725 sf	4,275 sf
Amphitheater reconstruction	22,500 sf (roof)	22,500 sf (roof) 9,565 sf	22,500 sf (roof) 5,610 sf	22,500 sf (roof) 9,500 sf
Community hall		13,700 sf	13,700 sf	13,700 sf
Multiuse building		2,625 sf	1,775 sf	
Administration building		2,480 sf	2,480 sf	2,480 sf
Family style restaurant			4,315 sf	

Development Item	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Heritage foods			1,775 sf	6,675 sf
Indoor theater (200 seats)			9,655 sf	
Restrooms by indoor theater			1,440 sf	
Crafts pavilion			7,020 sf	
Arbor			2,340 sf	
Nature center			1,470 sf	1,470 sf
Theater entry building			2,475 sf	
Restrooms in bowl area			900 sf	
Rustic cottages (11)			2,200 sf each	
Lodges (2) 2 stories			6,500 sf total	
Lodge with kitchen 2 stories			6,500 sf total	
Picnic shelters (3) for picnic area 3			800 sf each	
Comfort station by picnic area 3			600 sf	
Parking spaces for cars (10'x20')				
Repave Existing		555 spaces	526 spaces	426 spaces
New		164 spaces	232 spaces	152 spaces
Parking spaces for buses (45' x 12')				
Repave Existing		0	5	7
New		2	2	2
Stone bridge(s)		70 lf (2)	95 lf (3)	250 lf (3)
Boardwalk/decking		1,550 sf	20,500 sf	19,325 sf
Trails to connect bridges and buildings		2,300 yd	7,500 yd	3,000 yd
Footbridge(s)		725 sf	725 sf	800 sf
Railing		150 lf	2,400 lf	2,725 lf
Flagstone terrace/walkways		7,700 sf	11,785 sf	27,100 sf
Stone stairs			7,200 lf	175 sf

The comparative totals for the area of disturbance by alternative are as follows:

Alternative 2
7 acres
49,316 to 59,316 sq. ft.
9,750 linear feet
77,450 square yards

Alternative 3
7 acres
94,661 to 104,661 sq. ft.
10,040 linear feet
129,450 square yards

Alternative 4
14.5 acres
185,646 to 195,646 sq. ft.
19,635 linear feet
151,250 square yards

Alternative 5
7.5 acres
140,391 to 150,391 sq. ft.
13,225 linear feet
150,900 square yards

APPENDIX F: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following actions are in the approximate order that would take place to implement alternatives 2-5. The order is based on current information regarding site conditions, operational needs, and local concerns. This listing may vary as the above factors change or as other factors surface during the planning, design, and construction phases.

ALTERNATIVE 2

- Complete investigations and dump site cleanup
- Clearing/grubbing at new maintenance area, Turkey Spur
- Complete archeological investigations (monitoring/testing as necessary)
- Bury utility lines
- New construction
    New maintenance area: maintenance, fire cache, ranger offices, sewage treatment, staff housing
    Turkey Spur
    Core Area: visitor contact station
- Reconstruction
    Core Area: amphitheater
- Remove/relocate existing maintenance area, two staff housing units, visitor contact station
- Revegetate disturbed areas

ALTERNATIVE 3

- Complete investigations and dump site cleanup
- Clearing/grubbing at new maintenance area, Turkey Spur
- Archeological investigations (monitoring/testing as necessary)
- Bury utility lines
- New construction
    New maintenance area: maintenance building, fire cache, ranger offices, sewage treatment, staff housing
    Turkey Spur
    Core Area: visitor contact station, research facility, sales/demonstrations, orientation, multiuse, administration
    Festival Meadow-community hall
- Reconstruction
    Core Area: amphitheater
- Remove/relocate existing maintenance area, staff housing units (2), visitor contact station
- Revegetate construction-disturbed areas

ALTERNATIVE 4

- Complete investigations and dump site cleanup
- Clearing/grubbing at new maintenance area, Turkey Spur, cabins, picnic area 2, old roadbed
- Archeological investigations (monitoring/testing as necessary)
- Bury utility lines
- New construction
    New maintenance area: maintenance, fire cache, ranger offices, sewage treatment, staff housing

  Turkey Spur
  Core Area: research facility, orientation, community hall, theater entry, sales demonstrations, restrooms, administration, family restaurant, indoor theater, heritage foods, multiuse area
  Festival Meadow: community hall, crafts pavilion, nature center
  Possible asphalt of old roadbed
  Lodges, rustic cottages
- Reconstruction
  Core Area: amphitheater
- Remove/relocate existing maintenance, two staff housing units, visitor contact station
- Revegetate construction-disturbed areas

ALTERNATIVE 5

- Complete investigations and dump site cleanup
- Clearing/grubbing at new maintenance area and Turkey Spur
- Archeological investigations (monitoring/testing as necessary)
- Bury utility Lines
- New construction
  New Maintenance Area: maintenance building, fire cache, ranger offices, sewage treatment, staff housing
  Turkey Spur
  Core Area-research facility, sales/demonstrations, orientation, administration, heritage foods
  Festival meadow: community hall, special events lane, nature center
  Asphalt old roadbed
- Remove/relocate existing maintenance, staff housing units (2), visitor contact station
- Revegetate construction-disturbed areas

APPENDIX G: CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The list of actions below delineates: (1) programmatic exclusions that are not likely to have adverse effects on cultural resources that may be implemented without further SHPO and ACHP review, (2) actions not excluded but agreed to not require further review, and (3) actions not excluded but requiring review by SHPO and ACHP during the design stages.

Programmatic Exclusion

Historical, archeological, and architectural investigations to document structures and grounds (d)

Upgrading existing pedestrian walkways (f)

Repaving existing roads or parking areas (g)

Placement, maintenance, replacement of utility lines, transmission lines (h)

Erection of signs and wayside exhibits (l)

Actions Requiring Further Review

Construction of Turkey Spur Loop road and parking area, comfort station, road realignments, utility systems modification, new facilities, expansion of parking areas off picnic area 2

Addition of footbridges, walkways, and other landscape features

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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